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FROM
GOVERNORS
IN AMERICA
1755

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5.
7.16
Nil Nov. 69.

Sir,

As I have but Just one Moment to write by a Vessel that is under Sail Express to Admiral Boscawen, I embrace it to acquaint you, that I have this Instant heard the Fort at Beausejour is taken, by the Troops I acquainted you I was (in concert with Governor Shirley) raising in the Winter, under the Command of Lieut. Colonel Monckton, a small Fort they have near the Bay verte has also Surrendered; and Lt Colonel Monckton will march Immediately to St John's River, to attack the Fort there, which being not very considerable, there is not much doubt of his Succeeding.

I shall embrace the earliest opportunity of a Vessel, to acquaint you of the particulars, and to acknowledge, and answer all the Letters I have had the hon.r to receive from you, Since my last, which were of the 23.d Jan.y, 10.th March & 16.th of April.

I am with the highest respect Sir Your most obedient hum.e Serv.t

Chas. Lawrence

Halifax 21.st June 1755.

The Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson

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Halifax 28th June. 1755. [p.5]

Sir,

I have the Honour to acquaint you that the French Fort at Beausejour Surrendred to Lieutenant Colonel Monckton the 16th day of June instant, and the next day a small Fort upon the River Gaspereaux running into the Bay Verte where the French had their principal Magazine for supplying the French Inhabitants & Indians. In these Forts were found a great quantity of Provisions and Stores of all kinds of which Colonel Monckton has not yet had time to transmit me a particular Account I enclose you the Terms of Capitulation. Notwithstanding the Fort at Beausejour had twenty Six Pieces of Cannon Mounted they surrendred after four Days Bombardment, before we had even mounted a single Cannon upon our Batteries. Our loss upon this Occasion is very inconsiderable, not above twenty killed and as many Wounded; Major Preble of the Irregulars is slightly wounded in the Shoulder; Ensign [p.6] Jonge of Major General Warburtons Regiment, acting as sub Engineer, received a Shot in his Thigh as he was taking a Survey of the Ground for the Trenches and Batteries to be

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raised against the Fort; and Ensign Hoy of Colonel Hopsons, who had been taken Prisoner by the Indians in going alone from our Fort to the Camp, was killed by one of our Shells in the French Fort which fell thro a sort of Casemat and also killed three French Officers & Wounded two more.— At Colonel Monctons first arrival the French had a large Number of Inhabitants and Indians; Four hundred & Fifty of which were posted at a Block House which they had on their side of the River Mesiguash to defend the Pass of that River; here they had thrown up a strong Breast Work of Timber for covering their Men and had Cannon Mounted in the Blockhouse. At this place they made a stand for about an Hour, but were forced by our Troops with some loss, leaving their Block house and the [2] Pass of the River, clear for our People, who Marched without further interruption to the Ground intended for their Encampment.— As we had not Men enough to invest the Fort entirely, several got away; and when the Fort surrendered there remained one Hundred & Fifty Regulars and about Three Hundred Inhabitants several of which, with their Officers were Wounded: We do not

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yet exactly know the Numbers that were kill-
-ed in the Fort, but we believe their loss
has not been trifling, as several lay half
buried upon the Parade.— Colonel Monckton
has new named the Fort, and called it
Fort Cumberland: He gives the Troops under
His Command great praise for their good Be-
-haviour, & the Spirit and Resolution with which
they acted upon this Occasion.

I have now given the Colonel Orders
for proceeding to the Fort at St. Johns River,
which I flatter Myself will give them very
little trouble, as their Main Strength which was
Beausejour, is gone. He has likewise my Orders
to leave a Garrison in that Fort, as it is an
infinitely better one than Ours, as well for
Situation as Strength.— The deserted French In-
-habitants are delivering up their Arms: I have
given him Orders to drive them out of the [p.o]
Country at all events, tho if he wants their
assistance in putting the Troops under Cover
(as the Barracks in the French Fort were
Demolished) he may first make them do
all the Service in their power. Our possession
of the Isthmus, it is to be hoped, will
bring over the Mickmack Indians to our Interest.

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I never can sufficiently express my most duty full and grat: full acknowledgements for His Majestys having been graciously pleased to approve my Diligence I have most punctually obeyed the Orders I had the Honour to receive from you on undertaking no Military measures with=out previously consulting Major General Braddock, tho the Expedition against Beausejour was ac=tually concerted and in some forwardness before I was acquainted with his Arrival in America, and as he was at so great a distance I did not think it safe to retard Matters till I could have his Answer to my Letter to him upon that Subject, yet the Troops did not enter upon any Service till I had the Major Generals Order for so doing.

[4] I did not receive your Letter / of the 23rd. of January containing Orders for the Aug=mentation of the three Regiments untill the first of June I, some little time before, re=ceived an Order from Major General Braddock to the same Effect, who refered me to Orders I was to expect from England - I have Wrote pressingly to him to be informed from what Fund I am to be furnished with the Levy Money, as you are very sensible Sir, there

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is no Money raised in this Province - I am told that the Officers belonging to the Regi=ments here who were absent in England upon leave, are sent to Virginia to Recruit as the Major General shall direct - The two Thousand Provincial Troops now in pay here as they are engaged with for a Year, will in the mean Time be more than Equiva=lent to the Augmentation, and I shall try if it cannot be done otherwise, to enlist a suf=ficient Number out of them to fill up the Regiments here to One Thousand each.

It is needless for me to acquaint you, Sir, with the Success of Vice Admiral Boscawen in Stopping two French Ships of War one of whom had Eight Companies of Troops on Board bound to Canada, as I know the Vice Admiral has sent Home an Express with a full account thereof; as he [p10] continues his Cruise it is most likely more of their Ships and Troops may fall into his hands, but if that should not happen I believe the Blow he has already given to their Expedition and the Terror his Fleet has put the French into at Louisbourg, will pre=vent their acting Offensively at least this Campaign

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× I cannot close my Letter to you Sir, without taking Notice how much I am obliged to Lieuten.t Colonel Monckton's Military skill and good Conduct for our Success at Beausejour; Cap.= tain Rous who commanded the Naval part of this Expedition has been of the greatest Service to it, and I have reason to believe our suc.= ceeding so soon and with so little loss is much owing to the good Management of Mr. Brouse who acted there as Chief Engineer X.

I enclose the Copy of a Letter I have received from the Governor of Louisbourg with my Answer thereto. I believe when he wrote it, he knew of the French Fleet being on the Coast, but had not heard of that under the Com.= =mand of Vice Admiral Boscawen. I must [p.ii] beg of your Sir, if I have / omitted any thing of sufficient importance to be com.= =municated to you, you will have the goodness to attribute it to the great number of Expresses I am obliged to dispatch to Major General Braddock and all the Governors upon the Continent; and to the Multiplicity of Business of all sorts I have now upon my hands.

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I am with all possible respect

Sir

Your most obedient and most

humble Servant

Chas: Lawrence

Rt Honble Sir Thomas Robinson

Endorsed: Halifax. June 28th 1755 / Lt Gov.r [p 12]
Lawrence / R July 28th by Lieut / Cunningham

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Propositions pour la Capitulation de Beausejour. [p1a]

Messieurs le Commendant, Officiers, Etat Major employés pour le Roy et la Garnison de Beausejour sortiront avec Armes et Baggages, Tambour battant, Mêche allumée.

Le Commendant aura a la Tête de sa Garnison Six Pieces de Canon du plus gros Calibre, et un Mortier, avec Cinquante Coups de Poudre a chaque Piece.

Il sera fourny les Voitures necessaires pour les Transports a la Bay Verte, d'ou la Garnison s'embarquera dans ses Batimens pour aller ou bon lui semblera.

La Garnison emportera deux cent Quarts de Farine et cent Quarts de Lard.

Il sera accordé le Tems necessaire a la Garnison pour passer de ce Porte a la Bay Verte, et de la Bay Verte a sa Destination.

Les Accadiens ne seront point inquietez pour avoir pris les Armes, d'autant mieux qu'ils y ont été forcez pour peine de la Vie il ne leur sera fait aucun Domage.

Il sera permis aux Accadiens de continüer de vivre dans leur Religion, ils pourront [p1b]

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avoir des Prêtres, il ne leur sera fait aucune Violence.

Il sera permis a ceux des Accadiens qui le voudront, de se retirer pour la Terre du Roy de France avec leurs Effects mobiliers ils auront un An pour prendre ce party a compter du Jour de la presente Capitulation et les françois pourront fournir aux Acadiens les Batimens necessaires pour se retirer pendant le Cours de l'Annee. –

Pour les Articles de cette Capitulation qui pourront etre expliquée d'une Maniere obscure seront interpretés etre expliquée d'une maniere obscure, seront interpretés à l'avantage de françois et executés de bonne Foy.

Endorsed Propositions pour la/ Capitulation de Beausejour / (16th June 1755.) / 1. / in Lt Govr Lawrence's / Letters of June 28th 1755.

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[1-3]

Termes de Capitulation qui ont accordée au Commandant et Garnison de Beausejour.

Messieurs le Commandant, Officiers, Etat Major et autres Employez pour le Roi et la Garnison de Beausejour sortiront avec Armes et Bagage Tambour battant.

La Garnison seront envoyez directement par Mer a Louisbourg aux Depense de le Roi de la Grande Bretagne

La Garnison aura des Provision. de Bouche suffisante pour leur Passage a Louisbourg.

Pour les Accadiens; comme ils ont été forcé de prendre les Armes sur peine de la Vie, ils seront pardonné pour le Part qu'ils aient de prendre.

Dernierement la Garnison ne porteront point les Armes en L'Amerique pendant les Termes de Six Mois.

Le Termes ci devant sont accordé sur Condition que la Garnison sera rendue aux Troupes de Roi de la Grande Bretagne a Sept heures cet apres Midi.

le 16me Juin 1755.

[4-20]

Endorsed: Termes de Capitulation/accordées au Commandant/et Garnison de Beausejour/(16me Juin 1755.)// 2/ in Lt Govr Lawrence's Letter/ of June 28th 1755.

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Monsieur

La nouvelle que j'apprends en ce moment a lieu de me surprendre a tous égards, et c'est pour vous en demander l'eclaircissement que j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer M. de L'oppinot Capitaine de cette Garnison qui vous remettra cette Lettre.

Vous y verrés, Monsieur, quel a du être mon étonnement, de sçavoir que la Goelette la Marguerite Capitaine Desserre que j'avois expedié le Mois de Mars dernier pour le poste de la Riviere St. Jean, a été arrêté par sa Voile et conduit a Halifax, si c'est par vos Ordres, il est permis de croire, que ce ne peut-etre qu'en consequence de Nouvelles Instructions que vous aiés reçû du Roy de la Grande Bretagne, en ce cas j'aurai assés bien de votre probité et droiture pour m'en faire part, quand aux maximes, Monsieur, elles sont toujours les mêmes et remplies du même Esprit de Concorde et de tranquilité, que Je chercherai à maintenir dans le Gouvernement que le Roy mon maître m'a confié; Les dernieres Nouvelles, que j'ai reçues au/commencement du Mois par les Fregattes que

p 2.

le Roy a envoyées icy, ne sont en rien contraires à ces mêmes dispositions, et en conséquence Je n'ai rien ordonné aux Capitaines de ces Fregattes qui puisse troubler la Navigation et la surété des Sujets de sa Majesté Britanique, s'il en est ainsy de vous, Monsieur, vous desaprouverés et punirés sans doute la conduite de celui qui, contre tous les droits a arreté le Batiment que je destinais a porter la subsistance aux Sujets qui sont sous la Domination du Roy de france, Vous n'ignorés pas que la Poste de la Riviere St Jean est de ce nombre, et qu'a moins d'une rupture decidée il est hors de toute vraisemblance de penser qu'on puisse en interrompre la communication, fondé sur ce principe, Je me flatte que vous n'hesiterés pas a me renvoyer la Goelette, et qu'en vertu des mesmes ordres, que Je ne doute pas que vous n'ayés, et de la bonne intelligence qui a eté respectivement observée Jusqu'a present vous reglerés la conduite des Capitaines qui Commandent vos Batimens, vous ne desavouerés pas combien elle est irreguliere dans cette occurence, S'il en etoit autrement, Monsieur, j'aurai au moins la satisfaction dans cette que vous

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[p 23]

/m'occasionneres a l'avenir de prouver qu'il n'a pas dependu de moy de conserver l'Esprit de Paix et d'union qui nous sont également recommandés; Quoi-qu'il en Puisse arriver, Je dois croire que vous rendrés prompte Justice consequemment aux observations aux qu'elles, Je vous prie de faire attention. Il y a un Officier de cette garnison dans la Goëllette, il passoit dans sa famille, Je suis persuadé que vous aurés eu pour luy tous les égards que son grade et son Merite exigent, Je les comparent a ceux que j'aurois eu dans la circonstance que le droit des Gens et de la Guerre m'eut fait etre a même de luy rendre. - Je suis avec la plus sincere estime,

Monsieur Votre t.c.a

Le ch.r de drucour

a Louisbourg le 31. May 1755

Postscriptum

L'on me rend compte, Monsieur, que quelques Batteaux paroissent frequement dans les Parages depuis Scataris Jusqu'aux Isles de Bancaux, que l'on a Jugé, par leurs manœuvres, n'avoir pas d'autre dessein que de croiser, il a même paru assés proche de Galbaruss un Esquif, qui a fait venir a son bord

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un Pecheur, et aprés differentes questions, luy a dit étre à la poursuite de Deserteurs, Je [p 24] ne puis penser que se soit / par votre Ordre, vous luy auriés donné celui de venir directement ici prendre les connoissances necessaires, vous m'auriés certainement trouvé trés disposé a vous rendre tous les services qui auroient de dependu de moy; ma façon de penser sera toujours la même, quand on n'y fera pas naitre d'obstacles.

Vous sçavés, Monsieur, que Jusqu'a la decision des Limites de l'Accadie entre nos deux Couronnes, Canceau et les Isles doivent rester dans la Neutralité, sans y former de part et d'autre aucun Etablissement, Je compte bien qu'on cela, vous ne donnerés pas d'ordres contraires aux intentions de nos Roys

Endorsed (Copy) / M. Le Chevalier de Drucour / Govr. of Louisbourg / To / The Lt Governor of Nova Scotia / 31st May 1755. / 1. / in Lt Govr. Lawrences Letter / of June 28th 1755.

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Monsieur,

Hier au soir, j'ai reçue par les mains de Monsieur de Lopinot, la Lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'ecrire du 31^{en} de May 1755.–

La prise de la Goëllette la Marguerite fut fait par un de nos Vaisseaux de Guerre, a Port la Tour, le Capitaine l'a amene ici et elle a eté jugé dans la Cour d'Amiraulé et condamné pour avoir faite une Commerce contrebande.

S'il dependoit de moi Je n'hesiterois pas un instant de vous donner l'Eclaircissement que vous me demandez pur cette article, mais comme nos Capitaines de Vaisseau reçoivent tous=jours leurs instructions de la Cour et que ces Messieurs ne pont nullement pous les Ordres des Gouverneurs des Provinces, votre Excellence assurement n'attendroit pas de moi que Je raisonne sur cet evenement.

Le moment que le Capitaine m'a remis, entre les mains, l'Equipage je fis mon possible de les mettre a leur aise et je n'attendois qu'une Occasion favorable des, pour les renvoyer a Louisbourg comme vous connoissez Monsieur de la Sossaye c'est

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inutile d'informer votre Excellence que son grand Merite seul suffit d'exiger toutes les attentions possibles de notre part.

[p.26] Il est très necessaire que je marque a votre Excellence qu'il m'est impossible de regarder la Riviere St Jean comme sous la Domination de sa Majesté très Chrétienne, car actuellemt cet endroit fait une Partie du Province dont le Roy mon Maitre m'a confié le Commandement, mais comme j'entends que les Troupes Françaises qui y sont a present se sont rendues a ce poste par l'ordre du Gouverneur de Canada, Je n'aurois pas troublé votre Excellence avec cette Article si vous ne m'aviez point fait mention.

Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur, que j'ignore tout a fait cette Esquif qui s'est approcher de Gabarus, aussi bien que ces Batteaux qui paroissent dans les Parages depuis Scatari jusqu'aux Isles de Canceau; Mais je ne puis nullement convenir que ces Isles sont dans la Neutralité, et quoique jusqu'ici je n'ai point jugé necessaire d'y faire un etablissement Je me crois toujours en droit d'en faire, comme dans les autres Parties de ce Province.

Votre Excellence peut compter que mes Instructions comme les votre, sont remplie de cet Esprit de Concorde qui doit regner entre les deux Couronnes,

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et (qu'ayant toujours les attentions necessaires pour
les justes Droits du Roy mon Maitre) rien n' arri-
=vera de ma part qui puisse troubler la tran-
=quillité et la bonne Harmonie que j'ai ordre de
garder si / exactement envers les Sujets de sa [p.27]
Majesté très Chrêtienne –

Je suis, Monsieur

Avec la plus parfaite Estime

Votre Tre

Chas. Laurence

a Halifax ce 13me de Juin 1755.

[p.28]

Endorsd (Copy) / The Lt Governor of Nova
Scotia's / Answer to the Governor of / Louis=
=bourg's Letter of the 31st / May 1755. / dated 13th June 1755. /
2/ in Lt Govr. Laurence's Letter / of June 28th 1755.

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Halifax 18th July 1755 [1755]

Sir,

Since my last of 18th June 1755, sent express by Lieutenant Cunninghame, the French have abandoned their Fort at St John's River and as far as it was in their power de=molished it: As soon as the Forts upon the Isthmus were taken, Captain Rous Sailed from thence with three Twenty Gun Ships and a Sloop to look into St John's River, where it was reported there was two French Ships of thirty six Guns each: He anchored off the Mouth of the River and sent his Boats to recon=noitre, they found no Ships there, but on their appearance the French [burnt] their Cannon, blew up their Magazine, burned every thing they could, belonging to the Fort and Marched off: the Next Morning the Indians invited Captain Rous on Shore, gave him the strongest assur=ances of their desire to make Peace with us: and pleaded in their behalf that they had refused to assist the French upon this occasion, tho' earnestly pressed by them: I expect some of their Chiefs here in a very few days.

As the French Inhabitants of this Pro=vince have never yet taken the Oath of Allegiance

to his Majesty, unqualified. I thought it my
duty upon this occasion to propose it to them,
and as the Deputies of the different Districts
[p.111] in Mines Bason were / attending in Town upon
a very insolent Memorial they had delivered
to the Council, I was determined to begin with
them; they were accordingly summoned to appear
before the Council, and after discussing the Af-
-fair of the Memorial Article by Article, the
Oath was proposed to them; they endeavoured as
much as possible to evade it and at last de-
-sired to return home and consult the rest
of the Inhabitants that they might either ac-
-cept or refuse the Oath in a Body; but they
were informed that we expect every Man up-
-on this occasion to answer for himself, and
as we wou'd not use any Compulsion or
surprise, we gave them twenty four hours time
to deliver in their answer. and if they should
[p.112] then refuse, they must / expect to be driven
out of the Country, and tho' they should after-
-wards repent of their Refusal, they would
not be permitted to take the Oath - The next
Morning they appeared and refused to take the
Oath without the old reserve of not being oblig-
-ed to bear Arms, upon which they were

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acquainted that as they refused to become
English Subjects we could no longer look upon
them in that light, that we should send
them to France by the first opportunity, and
till then they were ordered to be kept Pri=
=soners at Georges Island, where they were
immediately conducted, they have since desired
to be admitted to take the oath, but have
not been admitted, nor will any answer be
given them untill we see how the rest of
the Inhabitants [p113] are disposed; I have ordered New
Deputies to be elected and sent hither imme=
=diately, and am determined to bring the In=
=habitants to a Compliance or rid the Province
of such perfidious Subjects.

I will do Myself the honour Sir, to
transmit you a copy of the Proceedings of Coun=
=cil upon this affair by the first Opportunity, as also
Duplicates of my last Letters, which at present we have
not had time to prepare, and we cannot delay the
Vessel which sails suddenly and unexpectedly.

I am with all possible respect Sir
Your most obedient and
most humble Servant
[autograph:] Chas. Lawrence]

Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson

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[p116] Endorsed Halifax. July 18th 1755 / Lt. Govr.
Lawrence / Rd Augt. 25th

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Virginia Williamsburg June 23d: 1755

Right Honble

Inclos'd is Copy of my last of the 6th Instt. - Since that I have received a Letter from General Braddock from Fort Cumberland advising me of his marching from that Fort the 10th of this Month over the Alleagary Mountains, & I hope by this Time he is near the Enemy & that his next Letter will give Accounts of his being in Possession of their Fort: He has desired me to provide Guns, Ammunition &c for that Fort if he should succeed in taking it (which I do not in the least doubt) I have accordingly order'd ten Cannon with their Appurtenances to Fort Cumberland from thence to be Transported to the Ohio on his Orders; & I am endeavouring to provide necessary Provisions for the Men that he may leave in the Fort: He says, he will carry all the Train of Artillery with him up the River Ohio.

I have reason to think by this Time that the Forces intended for Niagara are on their March from New York, & probably the General with his Forces may join them at Niagara, after he has reduced the Forts on the River Beef, and that on the Lake Erie,

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I sincerely wish Success to all his Operations.

In my last I wrote you that there was from the best Intelligence we could procure about five hundred French besides Indians at the Fort on the Ohio; since that I am informd they have reinforced them with seven hundred Men, but very few of them are Regulars, but pressed Men from their Families: And I am further informed that there are not above three hundred Regular Forces in all Canada, so that, if our different Squadrons prevent their sending any Forces from Brest; I have great Reason to hope that this Summers Campaign will be able to confine the Enemy to the narrow Bounds of Canada, and the more certain it will be if Colo Johnston prevails with the Six Nations to take up the Hatchet against the French.

The Southern Indians promised to send a number of their Warriors to join our Forces on the Ohio, but unluckily many of their Warriors were gone to Charles Town South Carolina on some Affairs; Mr Glen writes me, he will do all in his Power to persuade them to send some of their Warriors to join our Forces. The General has about One hundred and fifty with him, with the Half King, (Monacatoocha) and

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I hope the General's next / Letter will be dated [p 30]
from the Fort on the Ohio.

I have account from New York that they are preparing the Forces intended against Crown Point, they wanted Arms, I sent them from this thirteen hundred Stand of Arms, Bayonets and Cartouch-Boxes, which has reduced our Magazine to two hundred and fifty-Two thousand Men are gone from New England to Nova Scotia. From the several Dispositions and Plan of Operations I think we have Reason to expect Success. I shall keep You duly advised of every Thing that may occur - And I have the Honour to assure You that I remain with great Reference & due Respects.

Right Honble

Your most obedient and
faithful humble Servant
Robt Dinwiddie

Sir Thos Robinson

Endorsed Virginia June 23d 1755. / Lt Govr. [p 32]
Dinwiddie / Rt July 30th.

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[p 57]

Philadelphia July 1st 1755.

Sir

I think it my Duty by a Ship that sails this Day for London to inform You, that General Braddock with the Troops under his immediate Command, which are in very good health, moved from Fort Cumberland on the tenth past Instant, that on the fifteenth he was at the Meadows, and I have Reason to believe is by this time within ten Days of Fort Du=quesne, having met with no Opposition. He has been disappointed as to Provisions, Forage and Carriages from Virginia and Maryland, and now depends upon this Province for them all; he has been supplied from hence with Waggons and Forage, and I am laying in a Magazine of Provisions in the back Parts of this Province, and opening a Road from thence to the Waters of the Ohio, I wish my Assembly would have enabled me to have done these Things at the Expence of the Province, or even have regulated the Hire of Waggons and Price of Provisions, but they have done nothing but promise to bear the Charge of opening the Road, which I much doubt whether they will perform; and as to every thing else are still in the same

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unrelenting temper, and will raise Money upon no Terms but such as will increase and ren=der permanent their own Power, and lessen the Authority of the Crown and Government.

Governor Shirley's Regiment is come up Hud=son's River, and will be at Albany in a few days, and he will soon be there himself. Two Companies of Sir William Pepperell's Regiment are already at Oswego with one of the Independant Companies, two more are gone to secure the Carrying Place from the head of the Mohock's River to the Wood Creek, and the Remainder will soon move towards Oswego. Every thing necessary for the Niagara Expedition is ready [p 58] at the Places appointed, and / the two Schoon=ers building at Oswego will be fit for Ser=vice in about a month from this time.

Col Johnson is now in Treaty with the Six Nations, who have obeyed his Summons — and he thinks the Event of his Negotiation will be much to our Advantage. He proposes to take a large Body of the Mohocks with him against Crown Point, for which Place the Provincial Troops are upon their March, and He expects soon to join them — The Garrison there is said to be small, but its nearness to

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Montreal will enable the French to reinforce it as soon as they are informed of the Design to attack it - it is indeed reported that Six Hundred Men are already arrived there, but not in such a manner as to gain entire credit, tho it may be true.

Mr. Penn will lay before You Copies of the Letters I have received from General Braddock and my Answers. You will observe that in one of them he is pleased to tell me, that if he took the Forts or should build any on that River, he could not Leave his own Cannon nor spare Provisions for the Garrisons and therefore demanded that these might be supplied by the three contiguous Provinces of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

This I thought required the immediate Consideration of the Assembly, and therefore convened them by Summons, and pressed them to enable me to do in concert with the other two Provinces what the General expected, and at the same time imparted to them Intelligence of the French having sent Reinforcements to the Ohio, and of their publishing their Design to intercept the General's Convoys as well as destroy the back Inhabitants: But with all this, they were not otherwise

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affected than to offer me one of the very same paul of Bills they had twice presented to me before, which I amended in all the particulars against which there lay any rea-sonable objections; with this Treatment of their Bill, they were so dissatisfied as to adjourn them-selves to the first of September, without mak-ing any Provision for the several Matters so [illegible] earnestly recommended to them. The Messages that have passed between Us together with a Bill as presented and amended I have sent to Mr. Penn, who will lay them before You.

I intended to have troubled You with some observations upon the Assemblys issuing Notes of Credit in lieu of Money by their own Au-thority, and ordering them to be taken in all publick Payments; but my time will not permit me. I have the Honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient

humble Servant

Robt. H. Morris

P.S.

July 2d 1755 I have just received certain advice that a French fleet was seen on ye 5th. of June within forty leagues of Louisbourgh con-sisting of fifteen ships -

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I have also Accounts that Admiral Bose=cawen was on ye third of June with ten sail of the line off of St Johns Newfoundland bound to Halifax and that three of his ships were missing

I have this minute received letters from Genl Braddock dated at a place called Pear Camp about twenty two miles from fort Cumber=land June ye 21. wherein he mentions every thing being well. He proposes to be at Fort Du=quesne by ye 10th Instant, He has met with great difficultys in his March but no oppo=sition. The Road that is opening from the inhabited part of this Province to the Ohio is in such forwardness that it will be com=plete by the time the general will have occa=sion to use it.

I/shall Lay an embargo upon all pro=visions for a short time to prevent the french fleet from being supplyd. —

I am Sir

Your Most Obedt Humble Servt

Robt H. Morris

Endorsed Pensylvania July 1st & 2d/1755/ Depy Govr Morris./ R. Augt 16th

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[p.41]

Copy

Philadelphia 12th: June 1755.

Sir

I wrote you Two Letters by an Ex=
=press that went from hence the 14th Inst.,
One relating to the Three Months Provisions,
which you ordered to be laid in at Shippens=
=burg for the Troops; The other relating to
Forrage & other Matters; And I have now
the Pleasure to acquaint You, that Mr. Leslie
has sent from the back Countries, where He
was employed, Forty five Waggons loaded with
Oats, & other Forage; and that the Persons em=
=ployed by me, have, at last, dispatched Fifty
Two Waggons from this Town, each carrying
Fifty Bushels of Grain, one Half Oats, the
other Indian Corn.— I have had considerable
Difficulties in procuring these Waggons & was
obliged to issue a Threatning [p.42] Warrant to the
Magistrates of Four Counties, which brought them
in, but the several Townships made Contributions,
& gave from Five to Fifteen Pounds a Piece
to the Waggons over & above the Price of 15/
p.d day. This will make it very difficult to
procure Waggons for the future under a very
extravagant Rate, unless the Assembly, who I have

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ordered to meet to Morrow will regulate that Matter for the People Themselves have no kind of Scruple to make as great an Advantage as they can of the Troops that are sent to protect Them.

In mine of the 4th Instt I informed you, that I had applied to the Committee of the Assembly to enable me to send up a few
[p. 43.] Arms to the People employed in opening the Road, but they would not do any Thing in the Matter. Whereupon I ordered Twelve, or Fifteen Muskets to be bought & sent up to the Commissrs employed in that Service, agreeable to his Request: but there are but Six to be had in Town, which will be sent away as soon as possible; and I have directed the Commissioners to procure what Guns they can in the Country for this Service.

Since Writing to you about the Provisions, Mr Turner, the Gentleman employed by me, has procured another Quantity of Pork, which, with what He had bought before, will be sufficient as to that Article; and the Man I have sent into the back Counties writes me that He can procure the Flour.—

[p. 44.] Governor Shirley's Regiment will be at New

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York about the 15th Inst., and are, without debarking, to proceed to Albany: Sir William Pepperills is not yet full, nor do I imagine He will be able to compleat it in Time for this Summers Service, as I am told it wants nigh 400: This will render Governor Shirley much weaker than He expected to be.— I dont learn the State of the other Eastern Expeditions, but suppose the Letters I have the Honor to send you by this Conveyance will inform you of every Thing that is doing.

I am &c.

Robt. H. Morris.

Endorsed: Copy, June 12. 1755. / to Genl. Braddock / in Govr. Morris's Letter of / July 1st 1755.

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[p 47]

Copy

Camp 5 Miles from Fort
Cumberland June 11th 1755.

Sir,

I received your Two Letters by Express, & am greatly obliged to you, & Mr Peters for the Steps you have taken towards laying in a Magazine of Provision for me, as also for the Supply you are collecting of Forage.

I shall signify to Mr Dunn, by the return of your Messenger, my Approbation of the Deposits being made at the Pools Mill, instead of Shippensburg. — I dispatched an Express to yes:terday with Bills upon England for £4000 Ster:ling sent me, by Governor Lyon; and, upon Not:ice from you, I will send the Draughts from [p 48] the Deputy Paymaster upon Mr Franklin, for such further Sums as you may have Occasion for.

I have ordered a Party of an Hundred Men, as a Guard to the People working upon the New Road, which will set out this Day.

I am much obliged to Yourself & your little Government, for the Present of Oxen They have made me, and am

Sir &c.

E: Braddock

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[Copy] Endorsed Copy June 11th 1755. / Genl. Braddock /
in Govr. Morris's Letter of July / 1st 1755.

[REPRODUCTION FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS]

[f. 51]

Copy —

Philad.a June 16th 1755—

Sir,

Your Express just brought me Your Favour of the 9th Inst.t with Carolina Bills of Exchange, to the Amount of £4000 Sterling, which are drawn in such large Sums, that They will not readi=ly sell, wherefore I have directed the Mer=chant I employ to send them immediately to England, & draw His own Bills to the Amount, in such Sums as may suit the Traders here, which He will do at the high=est Exchange, But Bills are so plenty here, & at New York, by Means of Shirley's & Pep=perell's Regiments, the Northern Expedition, & Col: Hunter's Draughts, that I am fearfull Exchange will soon fall.

Before you receive this you will be [f. 52] informed of what I have done with Regard to the Forage, & Provisions, which I flatter my=self will meet with your Approbation, I have done my Utmost, & make no doubt I shall have every Thing you want in great readiness before you will have Occasion for it; My only Doubt, is about Escorts, but I shall try to work upon my Assembly to keep some

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them in Pay for that Purpose, for the Reasons I have mentioned to you in another Letter of this day: As soon as the Assembly are adjourned, & a London Ship, just going, is dispatched, I shall go into the back Counties, to settle all Matters about the Magazine & you may rest assured, that every Thing that is possible, shall be done, in the best & cheapest Manner.

[p. 55]

My Intelligence from the Road is, that They are got as far as Rays Town, and, I hope, They will soon join you; If some Log Store Houses were built nigh the Falls of the Ohio Crany, or at some other more convenient Place upon that New Road, Flower, & other Provisions might be sent thither, from the Magazine, near Shippinsburg; and you might, with greater Ease, be supplied when you got to the Ohio; but of this you are the best Judge.

The getting Recruits here is become somewhat difficult, as Shirley's & Pepperel's Officers have taken great Numbers from hence; However I will try what can be done, and if I had some Arms the Recruits might serve as Escorts from Time to Time.

[p. 56]

The Women you have discharged shall be taken Care of, as soon as they arrive.

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if I can prevail on my Assembly to contribute any Thing to it.

I am &c.ª

Robt. H. Morris.

P.S. I send Fifty fat Oxen away to Morrow & 50 more in Ten days, to Shippensburg, where Pastures are provided to keep them in good order, & from whence you may draw Occasion. —

[p. d]

Endorsed Copy June 16th 1755 / To Genl. Braddock / in Govr. Morris's Letter of July 1st 1755.

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Copy

Fort Cumberland May 20th. 1755.

Sir

I received your Letter yesterday acquainting me with your Proceedings relating to the Road to be made from Philadelphia to the Forks of Yohio Qary: To which I shall only say that as I am convinced of your Zeal for His Majestys Service, and the Success of the present Expedition, I make no doubt you have already, and will continue to use your utmost Endeavours for carrying that necessary Work into Execution.

I have engaged between 40 and 50 Indians from the Frontier of your Province to go with me over the Mountains, and shall take Joraghan and Montour into Service: In a few days the Women and Children which accompanied 'em hither will return to your Government, and I must repeat / my desire to you [p58] that you would take particular care of them, of which I have given them the strongest Assurances.

I have signified to Mr. Shirley my Approbation of his taking Capt. Schuyler and the 500 Men raised in the Jerseys under

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his Commard, and have acquainted Gov.
Belcher with my resolution.

I am &c.

E. Braddock

Gen.l Braddock Fort Cumberland 20th May / 1755 /
Gen.l Braddock / Copy / in Gov.r Morris's Letter
of / July 1st 1755.

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[p61]

Copy

Fort Cumberland May 24th 1755.

Sir,

As I propose soon to begin my march for Fort Duquesne, I am desirous of Adjust=ing every future Contingency with the several Governors in such a manner as to avoid any mistake or misunderstanding. If I take the Fort in its present Condition, I shall make what additions to it I shall judge necessary. I shall leave the Guns, Ammunition and Stores belong=ing to the Fort, with a Garrison of Virginia and Maryland Forces. But in case, as I have some reason to apprehend, they should aban=don & destroy the Fortification with its Guns &c. I will repair or construct some place of defence and leave a Garrison as before. But as to the Artillery, Amunition, Stores, Provisions &c. they must be immediately supp=lied by the Governments of Pensilvania Virg=inia/and Maryland seperately or Conjunctively; [p62] for the Train I take with me I shall find absolutely necessary for the further Execution of my Plan; and therefore am determined to leave none of them in the Fort.

And that I may not by any delays

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in yours and the other Governments be detained so long for the Arrival of your Guns and Convoy, as to frustrate any other designs for this Year, I must beg the Artillery, Ammunition, provision, Stores &c: may be sent with all diligence to the Fort. And a proper Quantity of Flower and Meal should be preparing, as these in every Situation must be required, and if Care is not taken to send these Convoys to them, the Men must starve, & his Majesty's Arms be dishonoured (should they prove successful) and the Expences and trouble which his regard to his Colonies [p62] have engaged him in, rendered useless. A Neglect of this kind must therefore consequently be highly disapproved by the King & his Ministers.

Some Indians lately arrived from Fort Duquesne mention a Bravado of the French and their Indians (at least it appears to me as such) that they propose, when the Army is far advanced, to fall upon this back Country and destroy its Inhabitants. Make what use or give Credit to this Intelligence as you please. However it may not be amiss to take all

possible precautions.

I am &c.ª

E. Braddock

Govr Morris.

[p64]

Endorsed Fort Cumberland | May 24th 1755 |
Genl Braddock | (Copy) in Govr Morris's Letter of |
July 1st 1755

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[p.65]

Copy

Philadelphia June 4th 1755.

Sir,

The last Accounts I have from Lancaster are that Mr Leslie has purchaod a Quantity of Forage; and has sent forward to the Camp, 20 Waggons loaded, & expected soon to send the Remainder, which, I suppose, by this time, he has done.

I have bought One thousand Bushels of Oats, and one thousand Bushels of Indian Corn in this Town, and have directed Sixty Waggons to be taken up, and, if they can be had, shall procure Forage enough to load them all, and send them away in small Parcels.— Inclosed I send you an Estimate of the Expence of the Forage made by Mr Franklin, who I employed to procure the Waggons, and who tells me I may depend on having them. Lieut. Hunter, in his Way to New York, told me he should furnish me with Cash, for this, and other Services that you might order, but in his Return tells me, that Orders, from Mr Johnston the Paymaster, are necessary for his Justification, which he has lodg'd Money here to answer, You will therefore please to

[p.66]

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order me Bills, for that Service, by the Return of the Express.

I have bought fifty fat Oxen at the Expence of the little Government of the lower Counties, which I shall send forward to Morrow with a parcel of fat Sheep, the particular Number I cant yet say, I have put them under the Care & Direction of a very careful Man, but the Heat of the Season will make their Progress very slow, this small Supply in Behalf of that Government I must desire your Acceptance of for the Use of the Army under your immediate Command.

Tyrrn your Letter to me of the 24th of May. I have summoned my Assembly to meet the 13th instant, and have wrote to the Governors of Virginia and Maryland to know what Military Stores they have in their Provinces fit for the Service mentioned in your Letter, and propose to divide the Expence equally between Us.

How consistent the furnishing Cannon & Stores of War may be with the non re-
[p67] -sisting Principles of my quaking Assembly I cant pretend to say, but, from their past Conduct, I dare not venture to promise that

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they will enable me to comply with your Demand tho' the Accounts they have from Eng=land of their Conduct being disapproved by the Ministry and by the Quakers, in general, may possibly put them into better Temper.

I received great Satisfaction from the Accounts Mr. Peters gave me of the forward State of the Road that is now opening to the Ohiogany, and this is since confirmed by a Letter from one of the Commissioners, wherein he says, that they are come to the Sideling Hill, and shall be detained there, at least, a Week, (that is till Yesterday) in cutting a Road thro' that difficult Mountain. But I am sorry to hear, from him, that the People will not, when they come to Rays Town, proceed further, without a Guard. I have on the receipt of this disagreeable News applied to the Committee of Assembly, to enable me to purchase and send them Arms, from this Town; for they have none in the Coun=try, but have not yet received their Answer, nor do I expect it will be a favourable one, tho' to do them Justice, they are ex=tremely desirous to have the Roads cut, and will, willingly pay the Expence. I wish it

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was consistent with your Scheme of Operation, as there is, in this Province, no regular Militia, to furnish them with a small Escort or Guard from your Army. If they had one, I am persuaded the Road would be soon finished, and an excellent Road it will be, and fit for Waggons, by the time you can want your Provisions to come this way to you.

I find, by Mr Peters, that you have thoughts of rendering this Road still more useful, by making Others from it to Venango and Niagara, None here are acquainted with that Country. If the Country will admit of Roads, the proper Places thro' which they are to go must be settled after [p1q] an Examination / made by the Traders you have engaged in your Service. I have ordered the Commissioners when they pass the Allegheny Hills to give it in charge to their Hunters to view and examine well the Nature of the Country, and to report it to you, and to give you their Advice And Assistance, if you desire it.

I am &c.ª / Robt Morris.

Philadelphia / June 24th 1755.

[p.7q] Endorsed Copy of a Letter from / Govr Morris to / Majr Genl Braddock / Philadelphia June 4th / 1755 / in Govr Morris's Letter of July / 1st 1755

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Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia to [illegible]
Mr. Penn dated the 21st of December last.

Fortunately Scaroyady, or Monecatootha is now in this City in his way to the Six Nations, where he goes to assist at the great Council, at Onondago at the special Invitation of the Six Nations, who have an absolute confidence in him, and will take his Representations of the State of Affairs at Ohio and of the true Disposition of the Indians. And I have the pleasure to tell you that in Council yesterday he told the Government, that he had with him the Hearts of all the numerous Nations over Ohio, Twightwees, Piankeshas, Cwendats, Shawonese, Delawares and other Nations, and that these and his own and those of the Six Nations at Auquick and in other places near the Ohio, were sincerely and fully for the English against the French, and that he went to spirit up all the Six Nations for the English and mentioned the Speech that he intended to make to them, wherein was much Oratory and a recapitulation of the Battles fought between them and the French, and the numbers of their Ancestors that were killed by those

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perfidious Men, and conjured them by their Blood to stand up as one Man and defend themselves and the English who had been always faithful.

He added that such was his affection and gratitude for this Government, that tho' he had one Belt already from them yet he would not proceed on his Journey 'til he should see the Governor and receive his orders and Messages to the Six Nations. That he intended to go to New York and see what that Governor would say to him, and then carry all the Messages and lay them before the Council, and back them with his own importunate applications for the Western Indians. He is made acquainted with the gracious and generous Supplies of Men, Ordinance, Stores, Officers, Ammunition and every other Necessaries for a large and vigorous opposition, granted and dispatch'd away at this rigorous and inhospitable Season by his Majesty, and it has a prodigious Effect upon his Mind, and still I am sure make a considerable Impression on the Minds of the Six Nations, who began to think we wou'd not oppose the French.

Endorsed Extract of a Letter to / Wm. Penn Dat'd at Philad'a / 21st Dec'r 1754.

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[p.75]

Sir

As I have this morning received a Letter from Mr. Peters Secretary of Pennsylvania dated the 1st of July, in which he says "By "Letters I have just now received from Secretary "Shirley he informs me that the General and Army "are well, have met with no opposition in their "Road and will be before Fort Duquesne by the 10th "instant; Our Provincial Road gives great satisfac= "tion, and will intercept the Generals Road time "enough for any use he can make of it, it "is very well done, and will cost above five "thousand pounds. the Governor and my self will "have three months Provisions lodged in good Mag= "azines for the General at or near Shippensburgh "by the end of this month". which I thought it proper to communicate to you and have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

Tho Penn

Braywick August 17. 1755.

[p.78]

Endorsed Braywick Augt. 17th. 1755 / Wm. Penn / Ry 18th.

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Boston. 10th July 1755. [p.97]

Sir,

Governour Shirley having left Boston the 28th of Last Month, in order to take the Command of the Forces destined for Niagara, it falls to me to have the Honour of acknowledg=ing the Receipt of your Letter of the 16th. of April which came to my hands the day after the Governour's Departure, and which was forwarded to me by Vice Admiral Boscawen from Off Cape Breton, & accompanied with an oblig=ing Letter from himself, dated the 17th of June 1755. offering Assistance to this and any other of his Majesty's Colonies, where it shall be necessary.

In Observance of the Directions you have been pleased to give, I have, with the Advice of his Majesty's Council for the Province, taken up a small armed Vessell, and shall employ her in the Pay of this Govern=ment, in order to convey to the Commander of his Majesty's Ships the earliest Intelligence of every Occurrent that may deserve his Notice. [p.98] And while / the Governour is absent, I shall be constantly attentive to the Duty of my Sta=tion & embrace every Opportunity of promoting

his Majestys Service

I have the Honour to be with the greatest Respect.

Sir

Your most humble, &
most obedient Servant.

[illegible] [S Phips]

The Right Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson,

[p. 02]

Endorsed Boston July 10th 1755 | Mr. Phips. |
Rt Augt 22d.

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Virginia Williamsburg July 23d 1755 [1755]

Right Hon.ble

The annex'd is bopy of my last, with the melancholy Account I received from Col.o Innes of the Defeat of our Forces under the Command of Gen.l Braddock: the News greatly surpriz'd me, and am still uneasy in not hav=ing any Account since that Time, though I have sent two Expresses neither of them re=turned— Whether the Enemy has stopt the Communication from the Ohio, or that our Forces are not defeated as Innes's Letter says, & that they may be besieging the Fort and no Mes=sage sent I know not. but I wou'd gladly wish for the best:

After the General left Fort Cumber=land I ordered the Militia to be rais'd in Frederick & Hampshire to defend the Frontiers; some Time after a Number of French & In=dians, about one hundred & fifty, came on our Frontiers, committed many Robberies and Murders; I found the Militia were a Cowardly People, or seized with such Panick as not to resist the Insults of the Enemy— I therefore immediately rais'd three Companies of Rangers. & order'd them to range about our Frontiers to annoy

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the Enemy, & shew them as little Mercy as they have done our poor People - They have murder'd about thirty five.

I have order'd the whole Militia of this Dominion to be muster'd, their Numbers &c: to be returned to me, and a Place appointed for their meeting in a Body; that on the first Account of the Enemys Approach I will make a large Draught from each County to march for the Protection of the Country: and I have no doubt, if they shou'd come over the Mountains, we shall be able to repell Force by Force.

This comes by Commodore Tepple, who will readily acquaint You with every Occurence that has happen'd, except the Ohio Affair, which I was in hopes by him to have given You a particular Account of, but he is now ready to sail - so soon as I have the Particulars I shall transmit them to You.

I congratulate You on the Success of His Majesty's Arms by Sea & Land in Nova Scotia, and if our People had such a Warlike Spirit as their Brother Subjects in New England, we cou'd have drove the French from the Ohio long e'er this; but it's not in my

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Power to raise their Spirits to a just Resent=
=ment of the Insults committed by the Enemy.

The Assembly, after many Arguments
+ Solicitations have granted 10,000 for the Expe=
=dition — 2,000 to pay the Rangers I have
order'd — and 600 £ to reinforce Fort Cumber=
=land — this is the most I cou'd bring them
to, and if it had not been for the Money,
and Credit, I had from Home the Expedi=
=tion cou'd not have been conducted to this
Time. I hope my next will bring You more
agreeable News. / And I beg to assure You [P.S.S.]
I am with great Deference and dutiful Respects

Right Hon^ble

Your most obed^t & faithful
humble Servant
Robt Dinwiddie [autograph]

P. S. In case my former
miscarried I send You a
Copy of the two Letters here
=in mention'd

Sir Thos. Robinson Bart.

Copy

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[pag]

Virginia Williamsburg July 14th. 1755

Sir

I this Morning receiv'd a Letter from Hon.o Innes Governr of Fort Cumberland, and another from Lord Fairfax, Copies thereof I Enclose You. These Letters give me a sensible Concern for the melancholy Disaster attending General Braddock and his Forces, which was indeed so surprizing to me, that I did not doubt but daily expected an Account of his having taken the Fort on the Ohio – The Particulars of the Battle have not yet reach'd me, but I expect another Express every Hour when I shall write more fully.

I am now sending Orders to raise all the Militia on the Frontiers, and shall order the whole Militia of this Dominion to be in readiness at an Hour's Call. I heard of this Vessel's sailing but this Moment, & I send this Letter to York Town to overtake her that You may have the first Intelligence – & I hope you will in this Hurry excuse Seals &c.

I am Right Hon.ble

Your most obed.t faithful humble Servant

Copy

[pag] Endorsed [illegible] Virginia July 23.d 1755.

Lt Gov.r Dinwiddie | Rx Augt 23.d { by Commod.re Keppell

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Frederick 12th. July 1755 [fo. 91]

Sir

Before I receiv'd Col° Innes's dismal Account I had order'd the Captains to meet me at Winchester on Monday next, in order to make up a Troop of Rangers of fifty Men under the Command of Captain Rose, who I proposed sending up into Hampshire the next Day, in order to scour the Frontiers— Col° Martin designed to set out with them; if we can muster them up we shall send them, if possible to hinder the Inhabitants from deserting the Country. The great Cry both here & in Hampshire is the want of Ammunition; however we shall do whatever is in our Power till we receive Your Excellency's further Commands.

I remain

Sir

Your humble Servant

Fairfax

Copy

Endorsed in Lt. Gov.r Dinwiddie's Letter of [fo. 92] July 23d. 1755

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C.O. 5:16

Fort Cumberland July 11th 1755 [p. 95]

Hon'd Sir

This moment I have received the most melancholy News of the entire Defeat of our Troops— the General killed & numbers of our Officers— Our whole Artillery taken, in short the Accounts I have recei'd are very bad That as please God I intend to make a Stand here, it is highly necessary to raise the Militia every where to defend the Frontiers

Your most Hble Servt

James Innes

To all whom this may Concern

Copy—

Endorsed in Lt Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter I of July 23d. 1755. [p. 96]

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Right Hon.ble

I wrote you two days ago with the Ac-
=count we had of the defeat of our Forces
under the Command of General Braddock near
the Ohio, & then was in hopes the whole
was false and that I expected another express
to Contradict it. But Alass! last night- I rec.d
an Account of the defeat, and the Enimie
being in possession of our Train of Artillery.
The General died like himself, having had five
horses shott under him, before he drop'd. All
the Officers of the Men raised here behav'd
well; but am sorry to learn the Private Men
of the Regulars, were seiz'd with a Panick,
ran away like Sheep, but I refer you to
the inclos'd Copy of a Letter from Col.o Washing-
=ton to me, and Commodore Keppel (by whom this
comes) will. Inform you of every thing relating
to the matter that has come to our Knowledge-

I came here to pay my Compliments to
the Commodore and to deliver him my Letters,
I return to Williamsburg immediately, where I
propose to call our Assembly, and endeavour to
get a Millitary Law put in Execution, without that
I have but little dependance on our Millitia. After

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which I propose to make a large Draught from each bounty, to be in a body to defend the bountry from the Insults of the Ennimie, for as they are possess'd of our Artillery, I fear they will bring them over the Mountains against us, If so we must indeavour to Retake them in the same manner we lost them —

Col°. Dunbar now commands the Forces at Cumberland Fort, he talks of going to Phila: delphia for Winter Quarters, our bountry is very open without Fortifications, I should therefore be glad he was ordered to remain on our Fron: tiers. for some Months; and as General Shirley now commands in Chief his Majestys Forces on this Continent I shall write him on the Subject —

I have done and shall Continue to do every thing in my power for the deffence of this Dominion, but from the People little is to be expected, as they are to a fault Par: simonious in Voting of Supplys; and the Milli: tia in bad order, that without the further As: sistance of our Mother bountry little can be done and it will be fatal to his Majestys Collonies on this Continent, to allow the French a Settlement upon the Ohio, which I hope will be seriously Considered by his Majesty — — — — —

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[p.99]

/and whatever orders I may receive shall be
duly obey'd to the Utmost of my power—

Commodore Keppel will readily open every
thing to you relating to the Affairs here, and
as he is a Gentleman of very Good Sense, his
Advice may be of much Service if call'd upo-
-on to give it— I must at present leave this
Melancholy Subject. and to assure you I re-
-main with great Deference and due respect

Right Honble

Your faithfull & obedt hum Servt

Robt Dinwiddie

[p.100]

Endorsed (without Date) / Lt Govr Dinwiddie /
Recd Augt 23d 1755. by / Commodre Keppell

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C.O. 5 : 16

[p.101]

(Copy)

Honbl Sir

As I am favoured with an Opportunity, I should think my self inexcusable was I to omit, giving You some Account of our late engagement with The French on the Monongahela the 9th Inst.

We Continued our March from Fort Cumberland to Frazers which is within 7 Miles of Fort Dequesne without meeting with any Extraordinary events, having only a Straglar or two pick'd up by the French Indians: when whe came to this place we were attack'd (very unexpectedly I must own) by abt 300 french & Indians, our numbers Consisted of abt 1300 well arm'd men chiefly regulars, who were immediatly struck with such a deadly panick, that nothing but Confusion & disobedience of orders prevaild amongst them: the Offiecrs in General behav'd with incomparable bravery, for which they greatly Suffer'd there being nearly 60 kill'd & wound'd: a large proportion out of the number we had: Our poor Virginians behav'd like men & died like Soldiers, for I beleive out of three Company's that were there that day Scarce 30 were left alive. — Capt Peyrouny & all his Offiecrs down to a Corporal were kill'd, Capt Polson shar'd

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almost as hard a fate for only one of his Escaped. In Short the dastardly behaviour of the English Soldiers Expos'd all those who were inclin'd to do their Duty to almost Certain death, and at length in despight of Every Effort to the Contrary, Broke + run as Sheep before the hounds. leaving the artillery, ammunition Provisions + Every individual thing we had with us a prey for the Enemy, + when we en=deavoured to rally them in hopes of regain=ing our inestimable loss, it was with as much Success as if we had attempted to have Stoped the Wild Bears of the Mountains—

4 to 5

The General was wounded behind the Shoulder + into the breast of which he died 3 days after, his two Aid de Camps were both wounded but are in a fair way of recovery. Col: Burton + Sr. Jno. St. Clair were also wound=ed + I hope will get over it, Sr. Peter Hal=ket with many other brave Officers were kill'd in the feild. I luckily Escaped without a wound tho' I had four bullets thro' my Coat + two horses Shott under me: it is Suppos'd that we left 300 or more in the feild dead; about that number we brought off wounded, + it is imagined (I believe with great Justice too)

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that two thirds of both those numbers receivd their Shott from our own Cowardly dogs of Soldiers, who gather'd themselves into a body con-trary to orders 10 or 12 deep would then level, Fire, & Shoot down the men before them.—

I trembl'e at the Consequence that this defeat may have upon our back Inhabitants, who I suppose will all leave their back Habitations unless there are proper measures taken for their Security. Coll° Dunbar who Commands at present intends so Soon as his men are recruited at this place to Continue his March to Philadelphia into winter Quarters, so that there will be no men left here unless it is the poor remains of the Virginia Troops who now are & will be too small to guard our Frontiers. As Capt. Orme is writing to your Honour, I doubt not but he will give you a Circumstantial Acct. of all things which will make it needless for me to add more than that I am

Hon^d Sir

Your mo^t. Obed^t. & mo. hble St.

G Washington

Fort Cumberland
July 18th 1755—

[13]

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NB I have Inclos'd a list of the Officers Distinguishing those that were kill'd & wounded in the late Engagement on the Monongahela—

[p.103] Endorsed Mr Geo Washingtons Letter / July 18. 1755 to / The Honble R. Dinwiddie Esq.

[p.104] Addressed Fort Cumberland July 18th 1755. / Mr Washington to Lt / Govr Dinwiddie / in Lt Govr Dinwiddie's Letter / without Date.

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[p 105.]

His Majestys Ship Penzance in St. Johns
Harbour Newfoundland August the 6. 1755.

Hon.ble Sir.

I beg leave to acquaint you of my Arrival here the fourth of this instant, where I found a letter dated from you the 10th of Aprile 1755, the particulars of which I shall take care and follow with the Utmost Strictness, This place affords no News but the Success of Vice Admiral Boscawen which you must have heard some time Ago, therefore I beg leave to Subscribe my Self

Hon.ble Sir

Your Most Obed.t &
Most Hum.ble Servt.
RD Dorrill

[p 100]

Endorsed Newfoundland Augt. 6th. | 1755 | Capt.
Dorrill | R. 25th

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10.516

Duplicate. Portsmouth July 9th 1755 [p. 109]

Sir

I had the Honour to Recieve your Com=
=mands, by Admiral Boscawen of the 16th of April
on the Second Instant, I forthwith by a Message
to the Assembly Being then Sitting desired that
Immediate provision should be made by them to
Enable me to Convey Intelligence to the Admiral
of the progress, & Motions of the French, both
by sea & Land, which His Majestys Service abso=
=lutely demanded at this critical Conjuncture, &
notwithstanding this Necessary Service required an
Immediate grant, the Answer they made to my
Message was only, that they hoped they should
be allways willing on every Emergency to give all
the Assistance in their power, when it appeared
to them, that the His Majestys Service required it,
which is their usual way of Excuseing them=
=selves from makeing grants when His Majestys
Service calls for it.

And as I can expect no Aid from the
Assembly I shall not be wanting in Conveying
the Intelligences I may have, of the motions of
the French, both by / sea & Land, as far as [p. 110]
my private fortune will extend, or permit me to do.

The Success of His Majestys Forces in Nova

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Scotia, in the Reduction of the French forts at Chinecto & Bay Vert, with five ships of Macnamara's Squadron, taken by Rear Admiral Boscawens Squadron. I am hopeing will so dispirit the French both by Sea & Land that the Expeditions on the Ohio, the Falls of Niagara, & Crown Point will be Attended with less difficulty, than was at first Apprehended.

Yesterday it was Currently Reported for truth that part of Rear Admiral Boscawens Squadron, had fell in with Macnamara the French Admiral, had taken & carried him into Halifax, & that Lord Bolliwell was killed in the Engagement. I have no Authentic Account of this News but have good Authority to believe it to be fact.

I am every hour in expectation of hearing the Event of General Braddocks Expedition on the Ohio, & upon his Success, there will be no room to doubt of Removeing all other French Encroachments in North America, & the people will then be Spirited to proceed further, should there be Occasion, I am with the greatest Respect.

[Sir / Your most faithfull Servant

B Wentworth]

The Right Honble Sr. Thomas Robinson

[1755] Endorsed. New Hampshire July 9th 1755 / Govr Wentworth / Rx Augt 27th.

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Annapolis. June 28th 1755— [p.121]

Right Honourable

Lest The General should have embraced no Occasion himself I take this Opportunity of acquainting You that General Braddock & the Troops under his Command left Fort Cumberland on Wills Creek the 10th Inst. The last Letters that I have had the honour to receive from him were dated the 22d when he had with a good Deal of Difficulty on Account of the Mountainous Country that occurred advanced Back: ward from Fort Cumberland about forty Miles A Flying Party of the French had surprized & taken prisoner an Indian (lately called the Halfking) who attended the Generals Camp, & is esteemed a very bold & honest Fellow, but on the Approach of the Generals advanced Guard who discovered them, they let him escape & retired towards their Fort — The 23d of this Month a party of Indians fell upon four Families of our distant Setlers, of whom they killed three & carried Eight away Captives— Letters from Winchester in Virginia of the same Date advise me that another party of French In: dians did / the Beginning of this Week attack [p.122] & kill Eleven of the Back Inhabitants of that

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Province & that many Persons were missing who They supposed were carried away prisoners. Our Assembly being at this time convened I have ap=prized them of these Transactions & desired them to empower me to raise & support a Company of Rangers for the Protection of our Frontiers from such kind of Incursions. They have not yet come to any Resolution & I know not what I am to expect in consequence of my Message.

With the highest Respect
I am Right Honourable Sir
Your most devoted &
most humble Servant
[Horatio Sharpe]

[p 124] Endorsed Maryland June 25th / 1755 / Dep't Gov.r Sharpe / R Sep.r 5th

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[p125]

Duplicate

Portsmouth 25th July 1755

Sir

Early this morning, by an Express I recieved the two letters I now transmit, by Coll° Innis's letter, dated from Will's creek you will be informed of the defeat of General Braddock, & by Governor Sharps letter, the State of the Army under that Generals Command will be known, before the fatal Engagement, in which it is to be feared the General lost his life, this is all the Account we have hitherto had, & Coll° Innis's letter is so short, that it appears to me from Governor Sharps letter, that the de=feat must be to only one part of the Army, which I please my Self will be confirmed, when we come to have a more perfect Account of that Melancholly Event.

This Sudden & unexpected change in His Majestys forces, respecting the further Success we were hopeing for, has damped the Spirits of His Ma=jestys Subjects on the Continent, but should the [p126] defeat prove to be partial, I promise my Self with the thoughts of its Exerting in the Colonys, a more Active Zeal for their Common Safety.

Major General Johnson has Succeeded

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Annopolis July 15th 1755 [p. 131]

Sir

The Enclosed was just now Sent me from Marlbro, whither it was brought from Bethaven yesterday.

I have not Receivd any Letters from the General or the Camp since the 22d June, but one Mr. — who Belongs to the Train, in a Letter to a Gentleman of this Town Dated near the Great Meadows the 1st of this month, Says, " On the 9th last Month the whole Army Except 600 men with Sr John St Clair who March'd two Days before, went from Wills Creek, and with infinite Difficulty through the worst Roads in the World arrived 10 Days afterward at the Little Meadows, where an Abatis was made by Sr John & two Engineers Encircling the whole Camp — here the whole halted three Days, Then the Baronet with his Party moved forward, & the Second day after the General with four Howitzers, four Twelve Pounders, 13 Artillery Waggons, besides Ammunition Carts followed him, & have kept marching ever since, and this Evening 'tis Expected His Excellency will be within Twenty five Miles of the Fort. Coll: Dunbar with the Remainder

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of the Army. four Artillery Officers. 84 barri=
=ages. with Ordnance Stores and all the Pro=
=visions, Waggons. from the Rear, amongst
whom I am. —

The Night before last we were alarm'd
four Different Times by the Skulking Indians
on whom our Out Guards and Sentries fired;
'Tis Said this morning the General has had
advice that 500 Regulars are in full March
to the Fort which is the Reason he is de=
[p.150] =Termined / to be there before them, as we
had but very Little Provision since we Left
the Fort at Will's Creek. the Officers as
well as private men have been and Still
are Extreamly ill with the Flux, many have
died; Tomorrow Morning we march again and
are to Encamp on the Western Side of the
Great Meadows, from whence we are to pro=
=ceed after the General, but am fearfull it
will not be before we have built some for=
=tifications there, and Leave a Strong party of
Men, with a Great deal of Provisions and
Artillery Stores. — Our Horses Being so weak for
want of Food and Rest that it is impossible
for the whole Rear to join the Front in
25 Days" — The Gentleman of this Province are

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Subscribing Liberally towards the Support of two or three hundred Men – I shall Sett off for Frederick in two Days – with the greatest Regard –

I am

Sir

Your most humble &

most Obedient Servant

Horr. Sharpe –

To Robert Hunter Morris Esq^r^
Lt.^d^ Governor Pensilvania –

Copy. Attest

p Thos Clarke Dp.^t^ Secry.

Portsm.^o^ New Hamps.^r^ July 25.^th^ 1755

Copy Ex.^a^ p Theodore Atkinson Sec.^dy^

[p. 136]

Endorsed Copy of a Letter from Lieut.^t^ Gov.^r^ Sharpe to Dep.^t^ Gov.^r^ / Morris, July 15.^th^ 1755. / in Gov.^r^ Wentworths Letter of / July 25.^th^ 1755

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[p.197]

Portsmouth July 27th 1755

Sir

I have already by this Conveyance transmitted Coll.o Innes's letter from Fort Cumberland, which gave the fatal Account of General Braddocks defeat, but the Ships being detained in port by Contrary winds until the 29th I have the pleasure to transmit a more favourable Account of that Generals defeat, contained in Capt Trents letter to Governor Morris, & Mr Peters letter to Lieut Governor De Lancey, Copys of which I now Inclose

At present we have not Recieved a perfect Account of the Engagement, but the above Letters are Esteemed to come Nearest the truth

I am with the greatest Respect

Sir

Your most faithfull Servant

B Wentworth] [autograph]

The Right Honble
Sr. Thomas Robinson

[p.120]

Endorsed New Hampshire July 27th / 1755 / Govr. Wentworth / Rt Sept. 6th

[p 201]

Hadensburg in Maryland. July 23d 1755.

Right Honourable

I am sorry to have such an Occasion to write but as we have a Ship just about to sail I embrace the Opportunity to acquaint You that I have this Inst. received a Letter from Captain Orme (who is at Fort Cumberland ill of his Wounds) in which he gives me a brief Account of the unfortunate Engagement between the Troops commanded by Genral Braddock & the French from Fort Du Quesne on the Ninth Inst. In the Morning of that Day the General passed Monongahela twice, the last time at about Seven Miles from the French Fort; a Party of three hundred Men having passed the River advanced toward the Fort & was immediately followed by another of two hundred & the General with the Column of Artillery Baggage & the main Body of the Army got over about One o Clock, when they heard a very heavy & quick Fire in the Front: The General & the main Body immediately advanced in Order to sustain them but the two advanced Detachments giving Way & falling back on the main Body caused great Confusion, & struck the Men with such a Panick that afterwards

no military Expedient that could be used had any Effect. they were deaf to the Exhorta-tions of the General & the Officers who ad-vancing sometimes in Bodies & sometimes seperate-ly were pacrificed by the Soldeirs declining to follow them. The General had five Horses shot under him before he received a Wound thro his right Arm into his Lungs of which he died the fourth Day after. Sr Peter Halke & the General's Secretary were killed on the spot: Sr John St Clair is wounded but there is room to hope he will recover: the inclosed is a particular Account of the Officers that fell & of those that survived the Action, the Number of private Centinels killed & wounded is about Six hundred. At the little Meadows (which lye about twenty five Miles Westward from Fort Cumberland) the General finding it impracticable for all the Troops to advance fur-ther together selected twelve hundred of the Best & proceeded with the necessary Artillery, Ammunition [p.202] & Provision, / leaving the main Body of the Con-voy under the Command of Colonel Dunbar who had Orders to join him as soon as pos-sible. I collect from some former Letters which I received from the Camp that the General

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had only four Howitzes, four 12 pounders & 14 Cohorns with him from the Train, which with the Ammunition, Baggage & Provision are fallen into the hands of the Enemy When Colonel Dunbar (who I have reason to apprehend was about forty Miles behind the General) was apprized of this fatal Accident, finding the Troops extremely reduced & weakened by this Action & Sickness, he judged it impossible to attempt any thing farther with Probability of Success, & is returning to Fort Cumberland with every thing that he is able to bring but as his Horses were reduced & much enfeebled, & many Carriages wanted for the wounded Men, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Enemy he has destroyed most of the Ammunition & the superfluous Provision that was left to his Care. Captain Orme does not describe to me the Situation of the Place where the Battle happened, how great was the Number of the Enemy, whether they consisted principally of Regular Troops or Indians, or wherefore they permitted the English to bring off their wounded; he only says By the particular Disposition of the French & Indians it is impossible to judge of the Numbers the Enemy

had that Day in the Field. When I received this Account I was on my Way to Fort Cumberland with a Number of Gentl.ᵉ & Volunteers who had entered into an Association to bear Arms & protect our Frontiers, where Indian Parties have lately done much Mischief I shall now halt a little & expend a Sum of Money which the Council & Gentlemen of the Country had subscribed upon the Assembly's refusal at their last Meeting to grant any Supplies, in purchasing a Quantity of fresh Provisions & such things as I think necessary for the Troops, & then escort them with such Men as I can persuade to join me to Fort Cumberland, where I expect to find Colonel Dunbar by that time arrived. I am afraid Colonel Dunbar will not proceed again [p 203] to Action this Summer for want of a Train of Artillery & Ammunition, neither do I think it will be an easy Matter to reinforce him speedily, for tho there are not I suppose in these three Colonies less than 20,000 Men fit to bear Arms, yet for want of such a Militia Law as the Eastern Colonies enjoy the Benefit of, & our Assemblies will not hear of, the People have no Taste or Notion of

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Arms or Military Duty, & fruitless are all our
Endeavours to persuade them to unite their
force & exert it for their Common Safety.

Be pleased to regard me
Right Honourable Sir
as Your most humble
& most obedient Servant

[autograph] [Horr Sharpe]

Endorsed Bladensburg in Maryland / July
23d. 1755. / Depy. Govr. Sharpe / Rx Sept. 29th

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[p 205]

A List of the Officers who were present & of those killed & wounded in the Action on the Banks of Monangahela the 9th day of July 1755

Staff

Generall Braddock ..... died of his wounds
Robert Orme Esqr ..... Wounded
Roger Morris Esqr ..... } Aid du Camps ..... Wounded
George Washington Esqr .. } .....
Willm Shirley Esqr ..... Killed
Sir John St. Clair Depty Quar. Mastr. Genl ..... Wounded
Matthew Leslay Assist to the Quar. Mastr Genl .... Wounded
Francis Halkett Esqr Major of the Brigade .....

44th Regiment

Sir Peter Halkett Bart° ..... Killed
Leit: Coll° Gage ..... Slightly Wounded
Capt. Jatton ..... Killed
Capt. Hobson .....
Capt. Beckworth .....
Capt. Gethens ..... Killed
Leit. Faulconer .....
Leiut. Littler ..... Wounded
Leiut. Baily .....
Leiut. Dunbar ..... Wounded
Leiut Pollenger ..... } Battalion
Leiut Halkett ..... Killed
Leiut Ireby ..... Wounded
Leiut Allen ..... Killed
Leiut. Simpson ..... Wounded
Leiut. Sock ..... Wounded
Disney ..... Wounded
Kennedy ..... Wounded
Townshend ..... Killed
Preston .....
Northlow ..... Killed
Pennington ..... Wounded

[p 206]

48th Regiment

Lieut Coll.e Burton ..... Wounded
Major Sparkes ..... Slightly Wounded
Capt.n Dobson .....
Capt.n Cholmeley ..... Killed
Capt.n Boyer ..... Wounded
Capt.n Ross ..... Wounded

Subalterns

Barbutt ..... Wounded
Walsham .....
Grimble ..... Killed
Weideman ..... Killed
Hansord ..... Killed
Gladwin ..... Wounded
Hathorn .....
Edmonston ..... Wounded
Pope .....
Brereton ..... Killed
Hart ..... Killed
Montresour ..... Wounded
Dunbar .....
Harrison .....
Cawthurt .....
Macmullan ..... Wounded
Crow ..... Wounded
Sterling ..... Wounded

Artillery

Capt.n Ord .....
Capt.n Lieut.t Smith ..... Killed
Lieut.t Buchanan ..... Wounded
Lieut.t Macleod ..... Wounded
Lieut.t Macculler ..... Wounded

Engineers

Peter Mc Keller Esq.r ..... Wounded
Robert Gordon Esq.r ..... Wounded
Williamson Esq.r ..... Wounded

Detachment of Sailors

Lieut.t Spendelow ..... Killed
Mr Haynes Midshipman .....
Mr Talbott Midshipman ..... Killed

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[p.199]

Capt. Stone of Genll. Lasselles Regt. ..... Killed
Capt. Floyer of Hopsons Regt. ..... Wounded

Independant Compy of New York

Capt. Yates ..... Wounded
Lieut. Fournain ..... Killed
Lieut. Miller .....
Lieut. Howarth of Capt. Demeries Indepent. Compy. Wounded
Lieut. Gray of the same Compy ..... Wounded

Virginia Troops

Capt. Stephens ..... Wounded
Capt. Waggoner .....
Capt. Polson ..... Killed
Capt. Peronee ..... Killed
Capt. Stewart .....

Subalterns
- Hamilton ..... Killed
- Woodward .....
- Wright ..... Killed
- Splidorft ..... Killed
- Stuart ..... Wounded
- Wagoner ..... Wounded
- Macneale ..... Killed

According to the most exact return we can as yet get about 600 Men killed & Wounded

Officers. Killed ... 26
Wounded. 36
unhurt. 23
in the Action .. 85

[p.200]

Endorsed List of Officers killed, and / Wounded in the Action / on the Monongahela / July 9th. 1755. / in Dep.y Govr. Sharpes / Letter of July 23d. 1755.

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Virginia Williamsburg Augst 4th 1755 [No 27]

Right Hon^{ble}

The enclos'd is Copy of my Letter by Commodore Keppel, which I doubt not that Gentleman deliverid with his own Hand. On my Return to this Place I immediately sent an Express to Col^{o} Dunbar, who Commanded the Remainder of the Forces at Fort Cumberland Copy of which Letter I here enclose Your This Answer to me, I also sent an Express to General Shirley Copy thereof I also enclose You: You will please observe how short Col^{o} Dunbar is in his Letter to me, which is the only one I have had since the Battle, he has not given me any Account of the Action or an Account of what Stores he left at Fort Cumberland; but the second of this Month he march'd all the Regular Forces of the two Regiments, & two of the Independent Companies for Philadelphia, which is 200 Miles from Fort Cumberland, by which Step he leaves the Frontiers of His Majesty's Colonies entirely open to the Incursions of a Brutal Enemy.

In his Letter he observes, General Braddock intended Pensylvania for his Winter Quarters, it's true, I know, he intended so to do; but

surely, if that Gentleman had survivd he would not have gone into Winter Quarters in the Middle of Summer, or would he have left the Frontiers exposed to the Insults of the Enemy: Colo Dunbar has left 400 sick & wounded, with the few Remains of the Provincial Troops, & a few of the Maryland Company, to guard our Frontiers against an Enemy that defeated 1300 pick'd Men, he has order'd one of the Independent Companies to Winchester all which is a mighty poor Defence There are not above 200 of our Province Forces remaining, for out of three Companies that were in the Action not thirty remain'd; they behaved so well, that if the Regulars had follow'd their Example, they would easily have defeated the Enemy.

Colo Dunbar in his Letter complains for the want of General Braddock's Instructions from His Majesty &c. they were lost in the Battle but Capt Orme, who was his Aid de Camp cou'd inform him of the whole if he had enquir'd after it Colo Dunbar is so short in his Letter that he does not inform me what Ammunition was left in the Fort: The Ammunition that was in the Magazine of this

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Government is almost expended. The Small Arms I sent to General Braddock, the Govr. ernment of New York & the Jerseys, to qualify them to prosecute the Expedition against Niagara & Crown Point, leaves us in Want. Upon his going to Winter Quarters You may observe what a Situation he has left this Dominion in. As Maryland has absolutely refused grant: ing any further Supplies Governor Sharpe writes me he must discharge his Company; so that the Defence of the Frontiers is left to 200 of our Men, & an Independent Company at Winchester By what Motives Col°. Dunbar proc- [p. 218] ceeds to Winter Quarters the Middle of Summer I know not; or how he can answer leaving our Frontiers so defenceless, without any Orders from General Shirley, who now Commands in Chief, I cannot account for, but it's very probable that the French & their Indians will come over the Mountains, harrass robb & murder our People. Immediately on Col°. Dunbar's March a very great many of our back Settlers left their Plantations & Crops on the Ground & came down the Country for their Safety.

You will please consider the miser- able Situation this Dominion is now in. I

immediately call'd the Assembly, they met before they knew of Col° Dunbar's March: I laid before them the Misfortune attending His Majesty's Arms, & the defenceless Condition of our Country, & the Necessity of reinforcing the Army that remained; they were much alarm'd & propos'd voting 40,000 £ to enable me to com-pleat our Companies to 1200 Men, which in my Opinion would have been sufficient to de-feat the Enemy, if the Scheme I propos'd to Col° Dunbar in my Letter had taken Place, but he says he call'd a Council of War where it was unanimously rejected, without giving any Reasons for so doing. I acknowledge I was not brought up to Arms, but I think common Sense shou'd have prevail'd not to leave the Frontiers expos'd, after having open'd a Road over the Mountains to the Ohio, by which the Enemy can the more easily in-vade us. All I can do at present is to compleat the Companies rais'd here, & be on the Defensive, in guarding our Frontiers, where I have already order'd three Companies of Rangers besides our other Men to guard our Frontiers, which are very extensive & to curb as much as they can the Barbarities of these Banditti.

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I am of Opinion, if the large Sum of Money the Nation has Expended on this Expedition, had been remitted here, with some experienced Officers, Sergeants, & Corporals, & the Men to be raisd here on the Establishment during the Expedition, after that to be dis-charg'd, that I think they would have be-haved much better than the Regulars from Ire-land; Their Officers behaved like Britons & Heroes, but a Panick seizd the private Men so strong they were under no Command, & by their Timidity left their brave Officers to be inhumanly kill'd by the Enemy. I dread the Consequence of this Defeat, as the Enemy no doubt are elated, & unless they are order'd from the Ohio to the Defence of Niagara & Crown Point, (which I hope before this are invested) what may they not do in march-ing into this Country with our Train of Artillery? The Affair appears to me dismal, however if any such Thing is attempted I will raize the whole Militia to oppose them, & every Thing in my Power shall be done for His Majesty's Service & the Defence of this Dominion I have the Honour to preside over.

The want of Arms & Ammunition gives

me real Concern, I should therefore pray a
proper Supply with all possible Expedition, And
[p.119] This / Majesty's Commands shall be duly & faithfully obey'd to the utmost of my Power & Capacity.

I shall therefore impatiently wait for Your Commands, & I beg Leave to assure You I remain with great Deference & due Regards

Right Hon^ble

Your most obed^t. hble Servant

[illegible] Robt. Dinwiddie]

[p.120] Endorsed Virginia Aug^t. 9^th 1755. / Lt. Gov^r. Dinwiddie / 4 Oct^r. 2^d.

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[p 221]

Williamsburg July 26th 1755

Sir

The melancholy Account of the Defeat of our Forces under the Command of General Braddock gives me sensible & real Concern and I was the more astonish'd when inform'd that 300 French and Indians had defeated 1300 British Forces; the Officers behaved like Britons with Valour and Spirit, and sorry I am for the Death of the General and the other brave Officers who were left to be sacrificed by the dastardly Timidity of the private Men, the Panick they were seiz'd with made them forget their Duty and the Command of their Officers; the Consequence was the Loss of the Battle, the Lives of many brave Men & the Loss of the Train of Artillery: such Advantages by so few Men is not to be met with in History, and surely must raise a just Resentment in the Heart of every British Subject.

Dear Colonel, Is there no Method left to retrieve the Dishonour done to the British Arms? as You now Command all the Forces that remain, are You not able after a proper Refreshment of Your Men, to make a second Attempt to recover the Loss we have sustain'd?

You must still have remaining upwards of 1600 Men, and I have call'd the Assembly of this Dominion to meet Tuesday next come Week, when I think I can promise You a Reinforcement of at least 400 Men. Provisions You cannot want as Bdo Innes has a large Quantity of Flour, and there are eight or 900 Barrels of Pork and Beef at Alexandria and Beeves can be prouv'd and sent You— You may probably say that You want Artil=lery; there are at Winchester four Twelve Pounders with all the necessary Appurtenances, and the Guns on Fort Cumberland may be made Field Pieces; but, why cannot we recover the Train in the same Manner as the Enemy took th m' You have four Months now to come of the best Weather in the Year for such an Expedition.

As our Forces under General Shirley are march'd, and I suppose before this attack'd Niagara; and Bdo Johnston I believe has prevaild with the Six Nations to take up the Hatchet against the French, and I suppose that Gentle=man is gone against Brown Point, which no doubt. the Forces at Fort Duquisne are appriz'd of, and naturally will go up the River Ohio

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to the Assistance of those Places, and will remain satisfied and secure that no Attempt this Year will be made on the Ohio - Under this their Security, what may You not do if You march over the Mountains the Be:=ginning of September? Your People by that Time will be well refresh'd, and I hope in high Spirits. If You can dispell the Pan:=ick they were at first seiz'd with, what a fine Field for Honour will Col° Dunbar have to confirm and establish his Character as a brave Officer! and what will he have in View? to retrieve the Loss we sustain'd [p 222] the 9th Inst! recover the Train of Artillery, and the Honour of the British Forces! - If You cannot attack their Fort in form You may be able to besiege them, and by preventing any Supplies of Provisions starve them out, for I cannot see where they can be supplied; they have none in Canada, and the Embargoe in the British Colonies will effectually prevent their Supplies - Add to this the Ships taken by Admiral Bos:=cawen that were loaded with all sorts of Necessaries, must in my Opinion reduce the French on this Continent to great Wants.

It's my Duty to His Majesty, as Gov-
ernor of this Dominion, to make this Proposal
to You, which if it meets with Your Approba-
tion or that of a Council of War will give
me much Pleasure; And I must entreat You
to give me immediate Notice of Your Inclina-
tions, if You think it eligible to put the above
in execution, that I accordingly may apply strong-
ly to our Assembly for their Concurrance and
Assistance - No doubt You will see the Necessity
of keeping Your Resolutions entirely secret, and I
shall wait with great Impatience for Your Answer.

It gives me great Pleasure that under our
great Loss and Misfortunes that the Command
devolves on an Officer of so great Military Judge-
ment and establish'd Character - Pray good Sir, con-
sider seriously the above Plan of Operations, or any
other, to protect His Majesty's Colonies, defeat the
Views of the French, and retrieve the Honour of
the British Arms. I remain with very sincere
Respect and hearty Wishes for Success to all Your
Proceedings - | Worthy Sir

Your most obed.t humble Servant

Rob.t Dinwiddie

Endorsed Copy Governor Dinwiddie to | Colonel Dunbar
Copy | in Lt. Gov.r Dinwiddie's Letter | of Augt. 7th. 1755

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Fort Cumberland August 1st 1755 [p 226]

Sir

Yesterday I was favour'd with Your Letter, and This Morning call'd a Council of War, when Your Schemes & Proposals were read & duly considered & unanimously agreed to be impracticable. Sign'd

Thomas Dunbar
Thomas Gage
Thos. Sharpe
Russ Chapman
William Sparke
John St. Clair

General Braddock's Scheme was to have made Philadelphia his Winter Quarters & when he join'd me his Inclination was going there & I am now pursuing his Design.

When this Command devolved to me I naturally enquir'd for General Braddock's Orders & Instructions from the Government & was told they were all lost & I am now wandering in the Wilderness to find my way as well as I can.

As soon as I arrived here I dispatch'd an Indian to General Shirley to Oswego, I sent him the fullest Account I cou'd of the Action, & all necessary Returns, that he may know every

Thing that concerns the little Army under my Command. I also told him my Intentions of marching to Philadelphia, & that I hop'd meeting any Orders he had for me at Shippinsburg, or there abouts.

I march from this To-morrow with the Remains of the two Corps & Independent Companies, one of which I will order to Winchester to remain there for further Orders which purpose they will soon receive Your Instructions to that Place for receiving them will be necessary.

The Virginia & Maryland Companies with some of the Train I leave here to Guard this Fort, & about 400 Wounded, and with great Regard_

Sir.

Your most Hble Servant

Thomas Dunbar

Copy_

[p 226] Endorsed Col.o Dunbar to | Governor Dinwiddie | Copy | in Lt. Gov.r Dinwiddie's Letter of | Aug.t 7th 1755.

Virginia Williamsburg July 29th 1755. [p.221]

Sir

I doubt not before this You have heard of the unexpected Defeat of our Forces on the Banks of Monongahela under the Command of General Braddock, of his Death and many more brave Officers &c.a - I send You enclos'd a Copy of Mr. Orme's and Col.o Washington's Letter on that unlucky Affair, as also List of the Officers kill'd and wounded: This News gave me a most sensible Concern, as I never doubted of the Success of our Arms on the Ohio; I think we were more numerous than the Enemy and having so large a Train of Artillery- but the Battle, we may observe, is not to the Strong, nor the Race to the Swift.

On this Misfortune I considerd we had four Months of the best Weather in the Year to retrieve our Loss (we have very little Winter here before Christmas) I therefore wrote my Thoughts and Opinion to Col.o Dunbar, Copy thereof You have here enclos'd, and on the Death of the General the supreme Command of the Forces devolves on You, I therefore thought it neces- -sary to send You a Copy of that Letter, believ- -ing Colonel Dunbar wou'd do Nothing without

Your Orders: Our Assembly meets next Tuesday when I have no doubt of their qualifying me to reinforce him with four or 500 Men, if You approve of my Plan.

Its more than probable that the French will sit down easy and expect no further Attempts this Year, and very likely that many of them will go to Canada, if so, I hope the Vessells on Lake Ontario will give a good Account of them: If You should not approve of my Proposal, I hope You will order Col.o Dunbar and the Forces to remain on our Frontiers to defend His Majesty's Colonies from the Insults and Devastation of the Enemy: for if he should leave our Frontiers its more than probable they will come over the Mountains rob and murder our People: There has already been many flying Parties of French and Indians that have murderd forty of our People, rob'd them of what they had & burned their Houses; I immediately order'd three Companies of Rangers to go on our Frontiers to resist their Insults, with Orders to kill all the French Indians &c.a they met with.

I do not doubt but You will be of Opinion with me that something should be immediately done, and that the Forces remaining are not to

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sit down quietly after the Loss we have sus-
tain'd; but if the Panick that seiz'd the
private Soldiers shou'd be remov'd, and after
a few Months refreshment and recovery of their
Spirits they may be able to retrieve our Loss;
but this I leave to Your superiour judgement;
I think if we remain easy under this Loss
it will give great Spirits to the Enemy, and
therefore am of Opinion something shou'd be done
when they remain in Security, thinking that
no more will be attempted this Year they may
be the sooner vanquish'd.

[p.220]

I send this Express on purpose for Your
Orders and Directions on this emergent Occasion,
I therefore hope You will give him quick Dis-
=patch and no Doubt Your Orders will be imme-
=diately comply'd with.

I hope this will find You in Possession
of the Fort at Niagara and shall be glad
to hear General Johnston prevailed with the Six
Nations to take up the Hatchet against the
French and that he is on his March to Brown
Point.

We cannot expect to be fortunate in all
our Plans of Operation but the Success of His
Majesty's Arms in Nova Scotia gives us great

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Pleasure, and in some Measure alleviates the great Loss at Monongahela: The Loss of our Artillery is monstrous as no doubt the Enemy will turn them against us; I know not how much of them are lost, but I think if Bdr. Dunbar had made a Stand at the Meadows the Enemy wou'd not have attack'd him in an open Field but I hear he destroy'd every Thing Provisions and all, and march'd into Fort Cumberland; as he is esteem'd a good Officer no doubt he had good Reasons for so doing, but I am fully convinc'd they wou'd not have attack'd him there.

The People in this Dominion are greatly alarm'd, and I have good Reason to think they will do every Thing in their Power to forward a second Attempt against the Enemy. I shall wait with great Impatience for the Return of this Express as the future Designation of the Forces is entirely with You; I therefore hope you will give the Messenger all possible Dispatch. Wishing You Health and Success in all Your Operations I remain with great Esteem and due Respect

Your Excellency's

most obed.t hble Servant

Robt. Dinwiddie

Copy

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Endorsed Governor Dinwiddie to / General Shirley [p.230]
Copy / in Lt. Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter of / Augt 7th
1755.

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Philad[a] July 30. 1755. [p 231]

Sir

A few days ago I received an Account of the Defeat of the Forces under General Braddock within about Six Miles of Fort Du=quesne - The Action happened on the Ninth Instant, and by the best Information I can get of it, our Army upon the crossing a small River near the Fort fell into an Am=buscade, and were almost encompassed by about Seven Hundred French and Indians, who kept a continual Fire for three Hours upon our Troops from behind Trees and Entrenchments, which they had thrown up four days before, and killed great Numbers without being themselves in the least exposed, which struck such a Pannick into our Troops, that it was impossible to keep them from the greatest Confusion, tho the offi=cers behaved in the most extraordinary manner, as you will see by the inclosed Letter from Cap=tain Orme, who was aid De Camp to the late General Braddock, and by the List of the kill=ed and wounded.- The General had five Horses killed under him, and at last received a Wound in his Breast of which he afterwards died.- All his Train of Artillery are Lost, the

military Chest and all his Papers, together with all his Baggage, Provisions and Ammunition, so that they have obtained a compleat Victory, and are now so strengthned by our Cannon, that it will be very difficult to dislodge them.

Colo Dunbar, who was with the heavy Baggage about forty miles from the Place of Action, received the Remains of the Generals broken Division, and either before or soon after
[p 232] the Generals Death, having destroyed his Provisions and Ammunition and buried his Shells and Cohorns, made a hasty Retreat to Fort Cumberland where he arrived on the twenty second Instant, and You will see by his Letter to me, a Copy of which I have the Honour to enclose, that he intends to march immediately to this City into Quarters.

But as that will be leaving the French and their Indians quite at Liberty to destroy all the back Settlements in this Province, as well as Virginia and Maryland, and as they are flushed with their late Success, and will be encouraged by the Retreat of the Army, they will certainly penetrate far into this Province and lay waste the Country as the Inhabitants have neither Arms or Ammunition to defend themselves

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nor are they formed into a Militia for want of proper Laws, which I have in vain en:
:deavoured to prevail on my Quaker Assembly to pass.

I have informed General Shirley, who is now on his March for Niagara, of this Defeat, which will be the means of his meet:
:ing with more Resistance there than he at first expected, as most of the Troops that were at Ohio will doubtless be drawn to the Defence of that important Pass; and have called my assembly together, and recommended to them the taking measures to prevent the bad Effects this Reverse of our affairs will have upon this Province, but have no great Reason to expect they will act with Vigour, tho their Country is so nearly concerned.

[I have the Honour to be Sir
Your Most Obed^t
Humble serv^t
Rob^t H. Morris]

[Duplicate only]

S^r J Robinson

Endorsed Pensylvania July 30th 1755. | Dep^y Gov^r Morris. | R. Oct^r 2^d. [4 23(4)]

[p 207]

Fort Cumberland July 18th 1755

Dear Sir,

I am so extreamly ill in bed with the wound I have Receivd in my thigh that I am under the necessity of employing Capt. Dobson to write for me

I Conclude you have had some Account of the Action near the Banks of the monon-gohela about Seven miles from the french Fort, as the Reports Spread are very imperfect, what you have heard must Consequently be so too, You should have had more early Accounts of it but every Officer whose business it was to have informed you was either killed or wounded, and our destressfull Situation put it out of our powers to attend to it so much as we would otherwise have done.

The 9th Instant we passed and Repassed the Monongohela by advancing first a party of 300 men which was immediately followed by another of 200. the General with the Column of Artilery, Baggage, and the main Body of the Army passed the River the Last time about one o'Clock. As soon as the whole had got on the Forside of the Monongohela, we heard a very heavy and quick fire in our

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front. we immediately advanced in Order to Sustain them, but the Detachment of the 200 and 300 men gave way and fell back upon us, which caused such Confusion and struck
[p.208] /so great a Panick among our men that afterwards no military expedient could be made use of that had any effect upon them; the men were so extremely deaf to the exhorta=tions of the Gent: and Officers that they fired away in the most irregular manner all their Ammunition and then run of. leav=ing to the Enemy the Artilery, Ammunition, Provision and Baggage, nor could they be perswaded to stop till they got as far as Lyells Plantation, nor there only in part many of them Proceeding as far as Coll Dun=bars party who lay five miles on this side.

The Officers were Absolutely sacrafised by their unparaleld Good behaviour, advanang some times in Bodys and sometimes seperately hoping by such Example to Engage the Soldiers to follow them, but to no purpose.

The Gent: had five horses killed unde him and at last received a Wound through his right Arm into his Lungs of which he died the 13th Instant Poor Shirley was shot

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through the head Capt. Morris wounded, Mr. Washington had two horses shot under him and his Cloaths shot through in several places, behaving the whole time with the greatest Courage and Resolution Jr. Peter Hasket was killed upon the spot. Coll. Burton and Jr. John St. Clair wounded and inclosd I have sent you a List of Killed and [p. 29] Wounded According to as exact an Account as we are yet able to get.

Upon our Proceeding with the whole Convoy to the Little Meadows it was found impracticable to advance in that manner, the Genl. therefore advanced with Twelve hundred men with the necessary Artilery, Ammunition and Provision, Leaving the main Body of the Convoy under the Command of Col. Dunbar with Orders to Joyn him as soon as Possible; in this manner we proceeded with safety and Expedition till the fatal day I have just related, and happy it was that this disposition was made otherwise the whole must either have starved or fallen into the Enemy as numbers would have been of no service to us, and our Provision was all lost.

As Our number of Horses were so much

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Reduced, and those extremely weak, and many Carriages being wanted for the wounded men, Occasioned our distroying the Ammunition & Superfluous part of the Provision left in Col.: Dunbars Convoy to Prevent it falling into the hands of the Enemy.

As the whole of the Artillery is lost and the Troops are so extreamly weakend by deaths, Wounds, and Sickness, it was Judged impossible to make any further Attempts there-
=fore Coll.: Dunbar is Returning to Fort Burn-
[p. 220]
=herland / with every thing he is able to bring up with him.

I propose Remaining here till my wound will Suffer me to Remove to Philadel-
=phia, from thence shall proceed to England; whatever Commands you may have for me you will do me the favour to direct to me here.

By the Particular disposition of the french and Indians it was impossible to Judge of the numbers they had that day in the field.

As Col.: Burton, Capt.: Morris and my self propose coming to Philadelphia as soon as we are able we should take it as a particular

favour if you would hire us a house, or convenient lodgings, and any other necessarys that you may Judge Requisit for People in Our situation Our Compliments to Mr Peters.

I am &c

Robt Orme

Endorsed: Copy / July 18th 1755 / Robert Ormes Letter to / Govr Morris / in Depty Govr Morris's Letter / of July 30th 1755. / 1

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A List of the Officers who were present [p. 261]
and of those Killed and wounded in the
Action on the Banks of the Monongahela
the 9th day of July 1755.

Staff.

His Excellency Edward Braddock Esqr. Genl and
Commander in Chief of all his Majestys Forces
in North America . . . . . Died of his Wounds

Robert Orme Esqr . . . . . Wounded
Roger Morris Esqr . . . . . } Aid de Camps – Wounded
George Washington Esqr . . . . . }

William Shirley Esqr. Secretary . . . . . Killed
St. John St. Clair Deputy Quarter Master Genl . . Wounded
Matthew Leslay Genl: Assistant to the
Quarter Master Genl . . . . . } Wounded
Francis Halket Esqr. Major of Brigade . . . . .

44th Regiment.

Sr. Peter Halket Colonel . . . . . Killed
Lieut. Col. Gage . . . . . Slightly Wounded
Capt. Talton . . . . . Killed
Capt. Hobson . . . . . .
Capt. Beckworth . . . . . .
Capt. Gethins . . . . . Killed
Lieut. Faulconer . . . . . .
Lieut Lettaler . . . . . Wounded
Lieut Baley . . . . . .

Lieut Dunbar ..... Wounded

Lieut Podlenger .....

Lieut Halket ..... Killed

Lieut Treeby ..... Wounded

Lieut Allen ..... Killed

Lieut Simpson ..... Wounded

Lieut Lock ..... Wounded

Disney ..... Wounded

Keredy ..... Wounded

Townsend ..... Killed

Preston .....

Harlow ..... Killed

Pennington ..... Wounded

48th Regiment

Lieut Colonel Burton ..... Wounded

Major Sparks ..... Slightly Wounded

Capt Dobson ..... Wounded

Capt Cholmley ..... Killed

Capt Bowyer ..... Wounded

Capt Ross ..... Wounded

Capt Lieut Morris .....

Barbut ..... Wounded

Walsham ..... Wounded

Grimble ..... Killed

Wideman ..... Killed

Hansard ..... Killed

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Gladwin ..... Wounded

Hathorn .....

Edmeston ..... Wounded

Pope .....

Brereton ..... Killed

Hart ..... Killed

Montresewr ..... Wounded

Dunbar .....

Harrison .....

Cowhart .....

Mac Mullen ..... Wounded

Crow ..... Wounded

Sterling ..... Wounded

Artillery

Capt: Orde .....

Capt: Lieut: Smith ..... Killed

Lieut: Buckhanon ..... Wounded

Lieut: Mc: Cloud ..... Wounded

Lieut: Mc: Cullen ..... Wounded

Engeneers

Peter Mc: Keller Esqr: ..... Wounded

Robert Gorden Esqr: ..... Wounded

_____ Williamson Esqr: ..... Wounded

Detachment of Sailors

Lieut: Spendelow ..... Killed

Mr: Haynes Midshipman .....

Mr Talbot Midshipman ..... Killed

Capt Stone of Gen.l Lascelles Regt ..... Killed

Capt Floyer of Gen.l Warburtons Regt ..... Wounded

Independent Companys of New York

Capt Gates ..... Wounded

Lieut Sumain ..... Killed

[illegible] Lieut Miller .....

Lieut Howarth of Capt Demeries Indepnt Company ..... } Wounded

Lieut Gray of the same Company ..... Wounded

Virginia Troops.

Capt Stephens ..... Wounded

Capt Wagoner .....

Capt Poulson ..... Killed

Capt Peronie ..... Killed

Capt Stewart .....

Hamilton ..... Killed

Woodward .....

Wright ..... Killed

Spitldorf ..... Killed

Stewart ..... Wounded

Wagonex ..... Killed

Mac Neale .....

According to the most exact Return we can as yet get, about 600 men Killed and Wounded.

[2 wds] Endorsed in Ol. Gov.r Morris's Letter of / July 30th 1755. / 2

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Copy From the Camp near the Great Crossing
July 16th 1755.

Sir

Your Letter with some Papers relative to your Assembly and a new Map of Part of this Country came to me yesterday. as they were directed for his Majesties Service I opened them, General Braddock and Sir Peter Halkett being killed with too many more of our Army in an Engagement with the French near Turtle Creek Six Miles from Fort Duquesne as now called; all of that Army that could come back joined me at about forty miles dis-tance. I have now with me three hundred wounded Officers and Soldiers, I propose leaving as many of them at Fort Cumberland as its possible to provide for, and leave the Indepen-dant Companys to garrison that Place, the Vir-ginian Companies I design sending to their respective Provinces to be recruited as soon as possible.

I have sent an Express to Capt. Hogg, who is covering the People cutting your new Road, as I cant think his advancing that Way safe to retire immediately.

I send this Letter to him to forward, and will very soon give You a more particular

Account of this unhappy Catastrophe in the best manner I can collect; as I was not there I can only tell You what I hear from Others.

It was General Braddocks Intention to quarter the Two Regiments with You this Win=ter, and I am on my March for that Pur=pose, and beg You'll be so good as to provide Quarters for about 100 Officers, and I believe 1200 Men will do. an Hospital will be absolutely necessary- I cant say when I shall have an Opportunity of kissing your Hand but it shall be as soon as my Situation will permit. I am with the greatest Regard,

Sir

Your most humble and most obedient Servant

Tho: Dunbar

I'll do my self the Honour of writing to You soon and be more particular- I never underwent such Hardships as of late.

To the Governor of Pennsylvania.

[p 246] Endorsed Copy 16 July 1755 / Bob Dunbars Letter to Govr. Morris / in Dl. Govr. Morris's Letter of July / 30th 1755 / 3

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[p. 262]

Mr Penn presents his bompliments to Sir Thomas Robinson and lest he should not have a boppy of the Governors Message to the Assembly of Pennsylvania proposing a grant of Land takes the Liberty of sending one, and has re:moved all objections made by the Assembly to that proposal, as also ordered a Sum of money for the general Seruice that he believes will put an end to all disputes. Sir Thomas Robinson will not be at the trouble to re:turn this paper

Spring Garden
October 5th

[p 266]

Endorsed Octr 5th 1755. / Mr Penn.

Copy

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly.

Gentlemen,

On the present Emergency, I think it proper, on the Part of the Proprietaries, to propose, as an additional Encouragement to such Persons as shall now engage and go upon an Expedition from this or the neighbouring Provinces to remove the French from their Encroachments on the River ohio, to grant the following Quantities of Land West of the Alleghany Mountains, without any Purchase money and with an Exemption from the Payment of Quit Rent for the Space of Fifteen Years from the First Day of March next, viz^t

	Acres
To every Colonel	1000
To each Lieutenant Colonel and Major	750
To every Captain	500
To each Lieutenant and Ensign	400
To every common Soldier	200

the said Lands to be patented to the respective Officers and Soldiers Their Heirs or Assigns without any Fees or Charges but those of surveying, on Condition of Settlement within the Space of Three Years after the Removal of the French.

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And I do recommend to You to afford some assistance to such as shall encline to accept of the above Terms, and make Settlements accordingly.

Robt H Morris

28th July 1755.

[p. 1 v] Endorsed Copy 28th July 1755 / Governors message / to the / assembly. / in Mr. Penn's of Oct. 5th. / 1755.

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[p 269]

Portsmouth September 3d. 1755

Sir -

That His Majesty may be advised of the progress of the Provincial forces Employed for removeing the Encroachments made by the French at Crown point, I Think it my duty to Transmit a Copy of Major General Johnson's letter to me of the 24th of August, from the Camp, on Hudson's River, also a Copy of the result of a Council of war held at the same place, on the further proceeding of the Army, by which it Will appear that a reinforcement is generally advised to, which I have urged on the Assembly of this Province to provide for, But the Council and Assembly are Averse at present to any Augmentation, [p 270] Alledging that the regiment In the service of this Province Consisting of 500 men is Equal to 5000 men in the Service of the Massachusetts Government, and at present that Government Has but 1500 men in this Expedition.

General Johnson's demand For an Additional force at this late hour, makes me doubtfull of our Success. The Defeat of the late General Braddock on the Ohio, I am apprehensive makes General Johnson the more Cautious, which at this Critical Conjuncture Is absolutely necessary, for should

Governor Shirley. meet with a defeat at Niagara, and General. Johnson at Crown point, it will so dishearten our Indians, and so greatly Animate
[p 2v] those / In the French interest, that there would Be the greatest danger of the Indians of the Six Nations and those in friendship With them going over to the French for this reason only the greatest caution Is necessary to be used at this time, and Unless we are sure of having a Superiour force, it will be safer to retreat than To risque a defeat— I am With all possible respect

Sir

Your most faithfull Servant

[autograph] B Wentworth

[p 3rd] Endorsed New Hampshire Sept. 3d 1755. / Govr. Wentworth / R. Oct. 6th

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Boston August 4. 1755 [p205]

Sir

. A Ship being now ready to Sail from this Port to Glascow, My Duty to his Majesty obliges me to transmit to Your Honour the Accounts, I have received of the Total Defeat of that part of his Majestys Troops that were with General Braddock in their March towards Fort De Quesne and of the Death of the General: You will be able to collect the Particulars of this unfortunate Action from the inclosed Papers. The Misfortune is great in it self and even beyond what has ever befallen the English Arms in the Colonies since their first Settlement, but the consequences which may ensue (without a signal Interposition of Divine Providence in our favour and his Majestys Tender and paternal Care of his poor Subjects in these Parts) are scarce to be conceived. One of the probable and almost unavoidable Effect of the Success of the French Arms is the drawing over the whole Body of the Indian Tribes [p206] into their Interest; If it should please God to favour the the other Enterprizes against the French Forts at Niagara and Crown Point under the Command of his

Excellency Govr Shirley and Major General Johnson
it may be a happy means to prevent in some
Measure the Defection of the Indeans I am
with great Respect

Sr

Your Honours

most Obedient and

most Humble servt

[illegible] [S Phips]

The Right Honble Sr Thomas Robinson

[Spine] Endorsed Boston Augt 4th 1755 / President Phips /
R Octr 8th

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[p 289]

Extract of a Letter from Major Rutherford.

Sir,

. Before you receive this, you will have heard of the most shocking Blow that British Troops ever received; General Braddock marched within 7 Miles of Fort Du Quesne with 1500 Men, well equipp'd, and a very fine train of Artillery, leaving Col° Dunbar, with whom I was, with almost half the Troops behind, with Orders to bring up the Waggons, whose Horses tired, & to stop untill the Horses recruited a little, he was attacked by not more, by the best Accounts than 300 Indians, & Canadians, who intirely defeated him, with the Loss of Sir Peter Halket, & most of his best Officers, most of his Men & all his Artillery, Provision, Baggage, & Ammunition, & ruined all our Hopes & Schemes. We are now on our Retreat and very little strengthned by the [p 290] Remains / of the first Division, the General dangerously wounded, as is Sir John St. Clair & most of those who have joined us,

[p 291]

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from Major Rutherford / in Presid: Phips's Letter / of Augt. 4th: 1755

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9.8:16

[p.293]

Extract from a Letter from an Officer in the Army with Coll.o Dunbar.

I am sorry to tell you our Army, at least that part which the General went out with being Picth'd Men, are intirely defeated. The General arrived at the Rear Party dangerous=ly Wounded, as is also Sir John St. Clair and many other Officers; The Dead uncertain as to Number but think its near 1000, This with the taking our Train of Artillery & all the Bagage is a Loss not to be retrievd. They set off the 12th Inst. for Willis's breek where they expect to be in eight days, They were obliged to leave & destroy every thing they were marching with except two Six pounders & Provisions sufficient for their Retreat. The common Men behav'd extreamly . . in the Engagment, the Officers (sic) extreamly well, but to no effect for the Men were so surprized, and thrown into such con=fusion, (tho' its imagined the Enemy were very few) that they were obliged to run away & leave the Baggage and every thing else in their pos=session and but very few arrived safe here Mr Sourmein is dead in the Engagement.

[p.296]

Endorsed Extract of a Letter from an Officer in the Army with Col.o Dunbar in Presid.t Phips's Letter of Aug.t 4.th 1755

[p 297-300]

A List of the Officers who were present and of those killed and wounded in the Action on the Banks of Monongahela the ninth Day of July 1755.

[illegible] the names [illegible] 244.

[illegible]

Province of the Massachusetts Bay August 4. 1755

Copy Examined

p Thos. Clarke Dpty Secry

Endorsed List of Officers killed & wounded / in the Action, / on the Banks of the Monongahela / July 9th / 1755 / in Presidt Phips's Letter / of Augt 4th 1755.

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Fort Cumberland July 18. 1755 [p. 201]

Dear Sir,

I am so extreamly ill in Bed with the Wound I have received in my Thigh, that I am under the Necessity of employing my Friend Capt Dobson to write for me.

I conclude you have had some Account of the Action near the Monongahela, about Seven Miles from the French Fort: as the Reports spread are very imperfect, what you have heard must consequently be so too. You should have had more early Accounts of it, but every Officer whose Business it was to have informed you, was either killed or wounded, and our distressful Situation put it out of our Power to attend to it so much as we would otherwise have done.

The 9th Instant we pass'd & repassed the Monongahela, by advancing first a Party of 300 Men, which was immediately followed by another of 200; the General with the Column of Artillery, Baggage, & the main Body of the Army pass'd the River the last time about one a Clock. As soon as the whole had got over the Fort Side of the Monongahela, we heard a very heavy & quick Fire in our Front; we immediately advanced in order to Sustain them, but

the Detachment of the 200 & 300 Men gave way, and back upon us, which caused such Confusion, & struck so great a Panick among our Men, that afterwards no Military Expedient could be made Use of that had any Effect upon them. [for not] The Men were so extreamly deaf to the Exhor=tations of the General & the Officers, that they fired away in the most irregular Manner all their Ammunition and then run off, leaving to the Enemy the Artillery, Ammunition, Provision & Baggage, and then run off, nor could they be persuaded to stop till they got as far as Gist's Plantation, nor there only in part, many of them proceeding as far as Col? Dunbar's Party, who lay Six Miles on this Side.

The Officers were absolutely sacrificed by their unparrallel'd good Behaviour, advancing some times in Bodies, & some times seperately, hoping by such Example to engage the Soldiers to follow them, but to no Purpose.

The General had Five Horses killed under him, & at last received a Wound thrô his right Arm into his Lungs of which he died the 13th Instant; Poor Shirley was shot thrô the Head; Capt Morris wounded; Mr Washington had two Horses shot under him, and his Cloaths shot thrô in

several Places, behaving the whole time with great Courage & Resolution. Sir Peter Halket was killed upon the Spot, Col° Burton & Sir John St. Clair wounded, according to as exact Account as we are yet able to get.

Upon our Proceeding with the whole Convoy to the little Meadows it was found impracticable to advance in that Manner; the General therefore advanced with 1200 Men, with the necessary Artillery, Ammunition & Provision leaving the main Body of the Convoy under the Command of Col° Dunbar, with orders to join him as soon as possible.

In this Manner we proceeded with Safety & Expedition, 'till the fatal Day I have just related, and happy / it was that this Disposition [p300] was made, otherwise the whole must either have starved or fallen into the Hands of the Enemy, as Numbers would have been of no Service to us, and our Provision was all lost.

As our Number of Horses were so much reduced, & those extreamly weak, and many Carriages being wanted for the wounded Men, occasioned our destroying the Ammunition & Superfluous part of the Provision, left in Col°. Dunbars Convoy, to prevent its falling into the Hands of the Enemy.

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As the whole of the Artillery is lost, and the Troops are so extreamly weakened by Deaths, Wounds + Sickness, it was judged impossible to make any further Attempts, therefore Colo. Dunbar is returning to Fort Cumberland, with every Thing he is able to bring up with him.

I propose remaining here till my Wound will suffer me to remove to Philadelphia, from thence shall proceed to England; whatsoever Commands you may have for me, you will do me the Favour to direct to me here.

By the particular Disposition of the French and Indians, it was impossible to judge of the Numbers they had that day in the Field.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most obedient +

most humble Servant

Robert Orme.

Province of the Massachusetts Bay

August 4. 1755 –

Copy Examined

p Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

[p. 304] Endorsed Copy of Letter from Captn / Orme, Fort Cumberland / July 18th 1755 / in Presidt Phips's Letter of / Augt 4th 1755

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[p 206]

Sir,

Immediately upon the News of General Braddocks Defeat near Fort DuQuesne of which I informed you in my last, I summoned the Assembly of this Province and pressed them to grant supplys for raising Men to Reinforce the Remainder of the British troops that Another Attempt might be made this Season for the Reduction of that fortress. In which I had reason to think the Neighbouring Provinces would have Joined and we might together have made up a Body of about Five thousand Men besides the Kings troops if this Province had begun and set a good Example which being best able and most immediately concerned, it was our Duty to do.

The Inhabitants were so alarmed at their Situation after the Defeat and so much affraid of being attacked by the Indians that great Numbers Petitioned the Assembly to make Provision for their defence - upon these Petitions, and while, the People were under the influence of their fears the Assembly talked of Contributing largely but took care to make all the delay they could - and in the mean time all the

Quaker Preachers and others of greatest weight were employed to shew in their Publick Sermons, and by going from House to House through the Province, the Sin of taking up Arms and to persuade the People to be easy and adhere to their Principles and Privileges, and they scrupled not to give out, that the Defeat was a just Judgment upon our forces for attempt-
[p 506] ing to disturb the French / in their Settlement.
Immediately after the meeting of the Assembly I let them know that on behalf of the Proprietaries I was willing to give Two hundred Acres of Land West of the Alleghany Hills to every Soldier and a larger Quantity to every Officer in proportion to their Rank that would go on an Expedition from this, or the Neighbouring Provinces against Fort Du Quesne, that the Land should be granted to them without purchase Money or Office fees, and be free from the Payment of Quit Rent for Fifteen Years to come. But this offer though a very Considerable one and such as would have induced many to have gone, and afterwards to have settled in that Country, they took pains to slight and lessen in the Eye of the People that they might have a greater pretence for

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insisting upon Taxing the Proprietary Estate.

When the Quaker Preachers and other Political Engines had brought the People to a proper temper, the Assembly sent up a Bill for raising Fifty thousand Pounds but that it might not pass they put in a Clause for Taxing the unprofitable Lands belonging to the Proprietors- this I told them I was restrained from doing, by a Proviso in my Commission that the thing was unreasonable in it self Contrary to the Nature of Government and the constant usage in this and the other Provinces. But they insisted on my passing their Bill without Amend: -ments a claim never made till lately and upon my refusall they have sent me two very abusive Messages highly reflecting upon the Proprietaries and plainly Calculated to render them odious / to the [p. 207] People and particularly so to the Germans.

The Messages Mr Penn will lay before you and I am satisfied they will appear to be of a very dangerous nature at this Critical time being intended to heat and inflame the minds of the People and to set them against the Government. And as the lower Class of People particularly the Germans who are very numerous here implicitly believe what the Assembly

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say, these Messages will make them Jealous of the Government they live under, Backward in Assisting it, and more inclinable to submit to the French and accept of the Offers they will doubtless make them -

I think it my duty to Observe to you that Mr. Benjamin Franklin who holds an Office of Profit under the General Post Office is at the head of these extraordinary Measures taken by the Assembly writes their Messages and directs their Motions -

The Remainder of the late Sr Peter Halket's and Colonel Dunbars Regiments with three Independent Companys will be in this Town to morrow in their way to Albany in the Province of New York where General Shirley upon whom the Command of the forces devolved by the death of General Braddock, has order:ed them in case these Provinces declined Another attempt this Season against Fort Du Quesne which this Province has already done.

From Albany they will be ordered to Assist Colonel Johnson Against Crown Point or General Shirley against Niagara as will be thought most for his Majesty's Service when they arrive [p 300] there which I imagine they may do in / about

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fifteen Days from this Time

My last Accounts from General Shirley are that he was within three days of Oswego, that the last division of his Army was about four days behind him, that three Vessells were launched upon the lake Ontario and fit for Service and that a fourth would be launched soon after he got there,

He intended to stay as little a time as possible at that place and proceed to Niagara, whence he had intelligence that the French were very busy in putting their works into the best order

The four Vessells upon Lake Ontario will make us Masters of it, and is a matter of the greatest importance, for while we are so, the French can send no considerable Supplys to Niagara or their Forts to the Southward, which must all pass into our hands if We can maintain our Superiority upon that lake.

[I have the Honour to be Sir

Your Most Obed.t: Humble Serv.t

Rob.t H: Morris

Philad.a Aug.t 28th 1755.]

Endorsed Pensylvania Aug.t 28th 1755. / Dep.ty Gov.r Morris. / R. Oct.r 9th

[p 309]

Annapolis (August. the 11th. 1755–

Right Honourable

The twenty third of July I took the Liberty to acquaint You with General Braddocks Misfortune; that I was proceading towards Fort Cumberland to tender my Services to Colonel Dunbar + His Majestys Troops that were retirened thither. I was glad to find at my Arrival that there was no want of fresh Provisions among them, but the Colonel had given Orders to the Regiments + the three Independant Companies to hold themselves in Readiness to march for Philadelphia last Saturday Sennight. While I was there Colonel Dunbar called a Council of War, at which I was desired to attend, + with the other Gentlemen gave my Opinion on the present Situation of Affairs in America + "whether his Leading out his Majestys Forces again immediately, to attack or besiege The French Fort on the Ohio would be expedient or conducive to His Majestys Service." He informed me that all the Artillery + Stores excepting four Six Pounders were either fallen into the Enemys hands, or had been destroyed by the Generals Order after the Engagement. This is a Loss that cannot be repaired in these Colonies where there

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are scarcely any Military Stores nor even Muse-quets but what have been lately sent to Virginia by His Majesty's gracious Order. This Consideration together with the Want of Officers as well as Men & Camp Equipage, the Dis-position & Weakness of those that have made the last, & above all the Want of a Fund to defray the Expences of another Campaign, occur-red as Arguments against his marching immedi-ately to act on the offensive, or to pursue the Plan that the General had proposed to prose-cute, wherefore he has put the Resolution he had before taken in execution & is retiring to Philadelphia in expectation I presume of receiving there General Shirley's Letters or Instructions. The several Companies that have been raised & sup-ported by the Governments of Virginia, N Caro-lina, & Maryland, are left to garrison Fort Cumberland & to protect the Frontiers of these Provinces till something farther can be done for their Security & for His Majesty's Service

With due Respect I am Right Honourable Sir

Your most humble & most obed.t Servant

[autograph] [Hon.ble Sharpe]

Sir Thomas Robinson

[f. 312] Endorsed Governor Sharpe / Annapolis August 11.th 1755 / Rec.d Octob.r

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Mr. Penn sends his Compliments to Sr. Thomas Robinson and shall be at all times ready to wait on him, but having appointed an affair of importance in the bountry to morrow, hopes he will excuse his being in Town.

Mr Penn sends a Copy of a Speech of an Indian Chief, and two Papers containing Messages between the Governor and Assembly, which being so very long he has not been able to Copy... in the Papers is a short Message, marked, from the Assembly, to inform the Governor some Gentlemen had proposed to advance five hundred Pounds for the Proprietors Share, in Lieu of which Mr Penn has ordered five thousand, and has exempted the People from Quit Rents for thirty years that shall engage to remove the French.

Mr Penn desires Sr Thomas Robinson will observe a Passage in the third Page of the 21st of August, wherein it is said, they hope the Legislature of New York will ease the Inhabitants of their Quit Rents for some years, from whence it is submitted whether these demands of Taxes on the Pennsylvania Quit Rents is not intended to be carryed into

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the Kings provinces - Mr. Penn has shewn it to
the Duke of Newcastle. Mr. Penn will have
the honour of waiting on Sr Thomas Robinson
the beginning of the Week
Spring Garden Octr. 16th

[p.316] Endorsed Octr. 16. 1755. / Mr. Penn.

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Scarriady spoke to the Governor of Penn:
=sylvania and to his Council and said,

Brother the Governor of Pennsylvania + all the English on this Continent. It is now well known to you how unhappyly we have been defeated by the French near Monongahela, We must let you know that it was the Pride + Ignorance of that great General that came from England, he is now dead, but he was a bad Man, when he was alive he Looked upon us as Dogs, and would never hear any thing what we said to him, we often endeavoured to advise him, and to tell him of the Danger he was in with his Soldiers, but he never appear'd pleas'd with us and that was the reason that a great many of our Warriors left him and would not be under his Command.

Brethren. We would advise you, not to give up the point though we have in a manner been chastized from above, but Let us unite our Strength, you are very numerous and all the English Governors along your Sea Shore can raise Men enough, dont Let those that come from over the great Seas be concerned any more, they are unfit to fight in the Woods. Let us

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go ourselves we that come out of this Ground we may be assured to conquer the French — Gave a String of Wampum and desired that the English would consider the matter well.

Brethren the English, we Let you know that our Cousins the Delawares, as well as our Brethren the Nanticokes have assured me, that they were never asked to go to War against the French in the Late Expedition, but promised in the [p.310] / strongest Terms that if their Brethren the English (espeaially those of Pennsyl:=vania) will give them their Hatchet they would make use of it, and would join us their Uncles against the French, so we assure you by this Belt of Wampum, that we will ga:=ther all our Allies to assist the English in another Expedition. one word of yours will bring the Delawares to join you, and you are a strong Body and very able, if you will but exert yourselves we can beat and humble the French, to which end (to wit, to admonish you to exert yourselves) we give you this Belt of Wampum. Pray consider well and be en:=couraged, and consider also what shall be said in answer to this Belt. I am going to the Nanticokes, and shall pass by the Delawares

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and any Message you have to send or any answer you have to give to them,- I will deliver to them.- here he deliver'd the Belt.

Truly Translated by

In the presence of
Andrew Montour
Sonatsiawano
Newcastle
Canuchraunyint

Conrad Weiser Provincial Interpreter

[4.320]

Endorsed Speech of an Indian / Chief. /
R. Oct.r 16: 1755 from Mr. / Penn

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Copy

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly.

Gentlemen,

On the Ninth Instant I recommended to you to establish a Militia for the Safety & Defence of the Province, and having frequently before recommended the same thing, but received no answer, I then desired you would give me an explicit answer upon the Subject

I do therefore now call upon you, and insist on a plain and categorical answer, whether you will or will not establish a Militia, that his Majesty and his Ministers may be informed, whether at this time of Danger the Province of Pennsylvania is to be put into a posture of defence or not.

Robt. H. Morris

21st August 1755.

Endorsed Militia / Copy August 21st 1755. / A Message from the Governor / to the Assembly.

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[p 325]

Copy.

A Message to the Governor from the Assembly.

May it please the Governor,

In our Message of the 31st. of December last we returned an answer to the request the Governor then made "that we would provide for the defence and safety of the Province, not only by affording such aids as his Majesty from time to time might require, but by establishing a regular Militia within this Province and providing Arms and Stores of Warr, and building proper Magazines in the most convenient places". And we have now again reconsidered that Message and his other Messages of the Ninth, Thirteenth, & Twenty first Instant, wherein we are told that we are still without a Militia, or the necessary means of defence. The Elections throughout the Province are near at hand, and our Assemblys may hereafter consider, whether it will be of any real advantage to establish a regular Militia by Law But as we find by the Governor's result upon our Bill for Granting Fifty thousand Pounds for the King's use, he cannot think it consistent with the Trust reposed in him by the Proprietaries to pass that Bill, we find by experience

That it can answer no good purpose to waste our time in preparing Bills for his assent, in which for the common Security and Defence of the Province, we apprehend it would be a high breach of the Trust reposed in us, to exclude the Proprietaries Estate from bearing any part of the Burthen, and if not excluded, as the Governor asserts, must at last be rejected by him, for want of sufficient powers in his Commission; and therefore (had we no other
[p 326] objections)/we hope the Governor will judge it reasonable, after so many repeated refusals of the Bills we have offered to him for granting large Sums of Money for the Kings use, that we now wait the determination of our Superiors, what Powers he has, or ought to have, as our Governor under the Royal & Provincial Charters, and what exclusive Rights our Proprietors may be justly entitled to, in the laying, and levying of Taxes, for the common Security, and Defence of their Estates, with all the other Estates within this Province.

In the mean time we have taken care to answer the Petitions from the Inhabitants of the several Parts of this Province, recommended to us in the Governor's Message of the fifteenth

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Instant, in the best manner we are able, which we hope will be satisfactory to them, and a proof of the care we have for their ease and safety, as well as the just rights of those we represent.

Signed by order of the House
Isaac Norris
Speaker

The 22d Day of the 8th Month called Augst 1755. P.M.

[p.320]

Endorsed Militia / Copy. August 22d 1755. /
A Message to the Governor / from the Assembly.

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A Message from the Governor to the Assembly.

Gentlemen,

Your long Message of yesterday is now under my consideration, and I shall give you an answer to it, as soon as I have fully weighed the several parts of it, but in the mean time think it my Duty to remind you, that this Province is still without a Militia or the necessary means of defence, tho' the present situation of our affairs makes this more than ever necessary as the Troops that his Majesty sent for the protection of these Provinces has been defeatd and the French have now in America a large Body of regular Forces, without doubt to carry into execu=tion the Plan they have long since formed of subjecting this Continent to their Dominion, and the Inhabitants from several Counties having by Petition represented to me the dangers to which they stand exposed, and declared themselves willing & desirous to defend themselves, I do therefore in his Majesty's Name call upon you Gentlemen, to put this Province into a posture of defence, by establishing a Militia (in doing which you will have regard to scrupulous Consciences) that this plentiful Country situate in the middle of the

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British Colonies, may no longer remain open to the Enemy, and thereby put it in their power to make themselves Masters of the whole Continent.

As I have frequently recommended this matter to you, and have had no answer from you, I must now desire you will give me an explicit answer upon the Subject.

Robt. H. Morris

9th Augst. 1755.

[p338] Endorsed Militia / Copy August 9th. 1755. / A Mess= =age from the Governor / to the Assembly.

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Copy

A Message from the Governor to the Assembly

Gentlemen,

The Secretary will lay before you the Copys of sundry Petitions that have been pre-sent'd to me by the Inhabitants of several parts of the Province representing their naked and defenceless condition, and praying means may be supplied to enable them to defend themselves, which you are sensible is not in my power to comply with. He will also lay before you a Letter I received last Night from John Harris giving an account of a Large Party of Indians, actually set out from the French Fort, with a design to fall upon, and destroy, the Inhabitants of this and the neighbouring Provinces. You have, Gentlemen, this piece of Intelligence as I received it, and will form your own Judgement of the truth of it, for my part I think it probable, and therefore recommend it to you to take immediate thought about it, as the consequences will be very terrible to the Inhabit-ants, if this account be true, and it can do them no injury to be upon their Guard, if it should prove false.

Robt. H. Morris

Philadelphia
Augst 13th 1755.

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Wednesday [p. 101]

Mouth of Conecocheig 16th July 1755

May it please your Honour

Being informed that you were on your Journey for the Army, but Stopp'd at Shippingsburgh on Accot of the News Brot by the Waggoners, who run off at the Beginning of the Engagement makes me take this Opportunity of Acquainting your Honour, that by a Young man just come here from the Camp We are informed that Our Army is beat and the Artilery Taken, but that the General with the Rest of the Army are making a good Retreat; As the Person who brings this Accot, is a Sober young man come from Fort Cumberland since an Express arrived from the Army, I think this Accot best to be depended upon, And I imagine there will be no great Danger going to the Fort, where I intend to Set Out for this afternoon – I am

Your Honours Most/Obedt hble Servt

William Trent

To the Honable Robert
Hunter Morris Governor
of Pensilvania at
Shippingsburgh

Copy Attest
Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

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Extract of a Letter from Mr Peters Secretary [Phila.] of Pennsylvania July 14th 1755.

By the Bristol Ship the Governor sent you one of the inclosed News papers which contains abundance of agreable News. another East that should miscarry I have thought necessary to send you, and further acquaint you that by a Letter from Major General Johnson of the 10th Instant I am informed that the whole body of the six Nations have declared for the English, and more are inclined to inlist than the Several Legislatures have provided for — two Galleys of thirty six feet Keel are ready to be launched in a fortnight on Lake Ontario. General Shirley is by this time at the carrying place between the Mohawks River and Wood brook that runs into the Onondago. he has with him his own Regiment that is compleat and Sir William Pepperels consisting in all of 750 or per=haps 800 Men and Collonel Schuylers Regiment of five hundred brave Jersey men.. General Johnson Commands against Crown point four thousand five hundred Men raised by the eastern Colonys, and has a fine Train of Artillery added lately by the Joynt expence of Massachussets and New York.

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It is Reported from all Quarters that the French Forces are drawn out of Crown point and the other Garrisons in Canada, and sent against Bradock who has not that I can learn more than two thousand men with him, and was with his Army in high Spirits on the 30th of June about thirty Miles from Fort du Quesne, since which time we have not heard from him.

The New Road now cutting to open a communication between the General and this Province has of late been infested with Partys of french Indians who have cut of, for the Present, all supplys to the Road Cutters 200 in Number and one hundred Soldiers, commanded by Capt. Hogg, but as a large konvoy is now going to them under the Gyuard of sixty four Men of Cumberland County I am in hopes the Enemy will be disappointed.

Several of our Inhabitants are killed and Several missing, and such a pannick has seized all men that they dare not reap their Wheat which is now ful ripe.

The Governor and Mr. Penn are at Carlisle and am in hopes they will put some spirits into the people, form Companys, collect our own Indians provide sufficient escorts, and build fortified Houses at proper distances for the receipt of the konvoys, and the defence of the Waggoners necessary to go with them.

[1st Blank]

DERIVATION FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Extract of a Letter from the Lieutenant [p.157]
Governor of Pennsylvania dated the 8th of July

By a Ship bound to Bristol I think it my duty to inform you that when General Braddock had got about thirty Miles from Fort Cumberland on his way to Fort Duquesne some Indians fell upon the back Inhabitants near Potowmack River and killed and Scalped several and took others Prisoners, I have not yet received the particulars, but from the best accounts I have had take the Number killed and taken to be about thirty -- this was what I was apprehensive of, and by a message to the Assembly of the 14th of June pressed them strongly to enable me to prevent but they declined doing any thing and did not condescend to give me any answer to my message on this head. The back inhabitants are greatly alarmed at this scalping and refuse to go with Provisions to the Road Cutters, unless they can have a Guard to protect them, which you are sensible, having neither Money nor a Militia, it is not in my power to furnish, and for want of which two hundred Workmen and one hundred Soldiers sent by the General to cover them, I am afraid will be under the neces=sity of quitting that usefull work, when it is nigh

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finished, by the last accounts they were within about Twenty miles of the Generals Road, and I propose that the Roads should meet at the great crossing, which is a pass over the southermost branch of the Yohiogany, within three Miles of the place where the three branches joyn and from what is called the Turkeys Foot.

I wrote you by Shirley I was laying in a magazine of Provisions at Shippensburgh, which may be destroyed by the Indians if the present Panneck should continue, and the people there be left naked and exposed to the cruelty of the Indians, I am therefore resolved to build a wooden Fort at some convenient place near that Town, in which provisions shall be lodged, and it will serve not only to protect the Magazine, but to secure the Inhabitants, who may upon any alarm take Shelter in and defend it. I propose to set of to morrow for that Service and to encourage the back Inhabitants

[p.150] Endorsed [illegible] in Mr. Penn's Letter of Sept. 7th 1755.

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Colony of Rhode Island the 14th: of April 1755. [p.137]

Sr:

His Majestys fatherly Care, and princely Provision for the Safety and well being of this and all other his Colonies, We gratefully ac:=knowledge, and humbly beg that through your Mediation his Majesty may be informed, That in Obedience to his Commands signified to us by the Earl of Holdernesse, in his Letter of the 28th: of August 1753. this Colony appointed Commissioners:=ers, to join with those, appointed by the other Colonies, to hold an Interview with the six Na:=tions of Indians, at Albany, on the 14th: of June last. Who repairing thither, did in Conjunction with the others, renew and confirm the Alli:=ance and Friendship, with the said Six Na:=tions of Indians; and in Proportion to our Ability, did contribute towards procureing such pres:=ents, as added to his Majestys Bounty then delivered to them, seemed to give them intire Satisfaction. The Commissioners on the Part of this Colony, were also intrusted, and did when at Albany, give Assurances to those of the other Colonies, that we were willing, and should at all Times be ready, to afford all the Assistance within our Power, for the Defence

of any of the British Colonies.

That in Obedience to his Commands sig=
=nified to us, by your Excellency in your Letter
of the 5th of July 1754. The General Assembly of
this Colony granted a Tax on the People, of
Ten Thousand Pounds, to be wholly appropriated
to the repairing and inlarging the Fort, stand=
=ing on a small Island in Newport Harbor,
to which Grant of the General Assembly, the
Town of Newport, the Metropolis of this Colony,
have of their own free Gift, generously added
five Thousand Pounds, to be appropriated in the
same Manner, And great Number of People are
now daily at Work, in making the said Re=
=pairs and Enlargements.

That, in Obedience to his Commands sig=
=nified to us by your Excellency, in your Letter
of the 26th of October our General Assembly will
take Care to have in readiness a sufficient Quan=
=tity of fresh Provisions, for the Use of any Forces
that may arrive here, but as yet none have
arrived: They have also ordered, four hundred
Men Officers included to be raised thinking that
to be more than this Colonies Proportion, if com=
=pared with the Numbers, which several of the
neighboring Governments have voted to raise on

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this Occasion, and will be ready to exert themselves to the utmost of their Ability, in Conjunction with the other Colonies to raise a common Fund for their mutual Benefit, and will at all Times readily obey, and faithfully fulfill, as in their Power all such Commands as they may from Time to Time receive from his Majesty's Commander in Chief, when he shall arrive in America; And as they have already, so will they continue, carefully to correspond [p. 163] with Governor Shirley, Sr William Pepperill and the Governors of all the other Colonies as the Exigency of Affairs may require.

And as this Colony are fully sensible of their absolute Dependency on the Crown of Great Britain, for their Safety & Support, They will therefore at all Times, with the utmost Chearfulness obey, and as far as their Power can reach, perform, all his Majesty's Commands signified to them, fully trusting, that while they continue to do so, His Majesty's gracious Favor, and princely protection, will not be withdrawn from them.

His Majesty's Care for the Protection of every Part of his Dominions, is so conspicuous, that it emboldens his Colony of Rhode Island

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to beg your Excellency to become Suitor to his Majesty on their Behalf, That he would be pleased to give to them, a sufficient Number of Cannon, which added to those they already have, may furnish their Fort, with its Enlargements now making, an exact Plan of the whole Fortification, with the Number & Size of the Guns already in it will be herewith sent to your Excellency, and the Number & Size of those that may be wanting to render it complete. We hope his Majesty will cause to be determined in the proper Offices

I am with the greatest Defference,
in Behalf of the Colony,
Your Excellency's most Obedient
and most humble Servt
Steps Hopkins

The Right Honorable Mr Thomas Robinson
One of his Majesty's Principal Secretary's
of State.

Duplicate

Endorsed Rhode Island April 17th 1755.
Gov. Hopkins / R. Sept. 5th

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[p.199]

à Versailles Le 16 Septembre 1755

Monsieur

J'ay apris depuis que je n'ay eu l'
honneur de voir Vre Exce que Mrs Lidleton
et Prevost ont ôté informés etant encore à Rennes
des ordres qui avoient été envoyez par la Cour
pour Leur liberté et la restitution de Leur
Frégate. J'ignore quel parti ces Mrs auront jugé
à propos de prendre depuis, n'y ce qu'ils sont
devenus, ainsi c'est à Vtre Exce à juger de la
reponse qu'Elle doit leur faire et du Lieu où
Elle doit la Leur adresser.

Je suis avec un très parfait attachement.

Monsieur

De Vtre Exce

très humble & très

obeissant serviteur

Signé Rouillé

[p.200]

Endorsed Mr de Rouillé / à Mr de Berken-
-rode / à Versailles le 16 Septembre / 1755.

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[P 349]

Virginia Williamsburg Aug. 20th 1755

Right Hon.ble

For fear of miscarriage of my Letter of the 7th Instt. I send a Copy thereof & Copies of my Letters to Col.o Dunbar, Genl. Shirley, & Col.o Dunbar's Answer to me – That Gentleman left Fort Cumberland the 2d of this Month for his Winter Quarters to Philadelphia, & he order'd the Light Horse rais'd here to march with him; he has taken all the Regular Troops with him; the three Independent Companies of New York & So. Carolina he also order'd to march with him for Philad.a though those three Companies were by His Majesty's Orders sent here to be under my Command for the Protection of our Frontiers, & to repell the Designs of the Enemy; That now there is about 400 Sick & Wounded, with the Provincial Troops, left at Fort Cumberland: The Consequence of Col.o Dunbar's carrying all His Majesty's Forces with him has occasion'd a great Desertion of the Forces left at Fort Cumberland, & raised in this Dominion, they suggesting that being left with so few in Number will expose them to be a Sacrifice to the implacable Hatred of a barbarous Enemy – This whole Country is in great Consternation, that after the Road to

the Ohio is open'd they are greatly exposed to the Incursions of the Enemy, when deserted by His Majesty's Regulars; & indeed I was under much concern at his taking the Independent Companies with him, not knowing his Power I must sub-mit, it's to His Majesty & the Ministry.

Our Assembly have voted 40,000 more for the Service of the Expedition, I have sent out seven Companies of Rangers to the Frontiers to de-fend our back Settlements, which will be attended with great Expence, & might have been prevented if the Gen.l had left some of the Regulars to defend us: I shall also compleat the other nine Companies that were rais'd here, & with General Braddock, & keep them on the Defensive till I have Orders from Home, which I wish may be soon.

I dare not venture to give my Opinion of what may be proper, when I consider the great Charge the Nation has been at, & to no Purpose; but I may venture to say, if the French are allowed a quiet Settlement on the Ohio, His Majesty's Dominions on this Side of the Allegany Mountains, will in Time fall into the Hands of the Enemy; which shou'd be prevented, & that, very soon; for they are now

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Tampering with our friendly Indians, to abandon our Interest, & the French are between us & the Twightwees: their Interest & Friendship I have no Reason to doubt of if we could come at them, it no doubt will require a great Force to drive them from the Ohio. I think I cou'd raise two or three thousand Men, but the People are so very poor, that we cou'd not raise Money to pay, cloth, & maintain them - Our Magazine is without Arms, Powder, or Shott, as I was obliged to supply the northern Colonies to carry [p. 302] on their Operations against Crown Point & Niagara.

The Situation of our present Affairs I think it my Duty to lay before You & to beg His Majesty's Commands which shall be duly obey'd - by

Sir / Your most obed.t hble Servant

Robt. Dinwiddie [autograph]

P.S. Incles'd I send You an Account of the Forces Col.o Dunbar march'd from Fort Cumberland to Philadelphia

Aug. 21st. I have this Minute an Account that last Week (Sic) near an hundred Families were cut off by they Enemy upon our Frontiers; & I am endeavouring to send them some Assistance

Sir Thomas Robinson

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[p 353]

Fort Cumberland

Effective Men march'd for Philadelphia Aug 2d 1755

Sir Peter Halkets Regmt			564
Col° Dunbars			589
			1153
Capt Rutherfords	Independent Companies	66	
Capt Gates's		59	
Capt Demeres's		103	228
Brass 6 pdrs, Bohams Tic° Stores	Royal Train of Artillery	93	
	Sailors	22	115
		Total	1516

[p 354]

Endorsed Effective Men march'd / from Fort Cumbld for / Philad.a / in Lt Govr Dinwiddies Letter / of Augt 20th 1755.

Virginia Williamsburg Sept.r 6th 1955. [illegible]

Right Hon.ble

Inclosed You have Copy of my last to You of the 20th of August, to which please be referred. I am desired by our Council and House of Burgesses to transmit to You an Address from them to His Majesty, which they beg You would please to present to his Royal Hands.

I wrote You in my last that I had wrote to Governor Shirley and sent You a Copy of my Letter to him. You now have enclos'd his Answer thereto, and a Copy of his Orders to Col.o Dunbar, by which You will please observe that he was of Opinion with me, that an Attempt against the Fort on Ohio was eligible; and that he then thought the Independent Companies were doing Duty at Fort Cumberland But Col.o Dunbar, contrary to all Expectations, complys, I suppose, with General Shirleys former Orders, and is now on his March to Albany as the March is long and thorow Woods, it's not thought possible he can reach Albany before the End of October, or Beginning of November, when indeed it will be Time to go into Winter Quar-ters, and in Course can be of no Service to the Ex-peditions against Niagara and Crown Point; or do I hear he has left any Forces as ordered by General

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Shirley for the Protection of our Frontiers. I also Trouble You with Letters from Colo. Innes Governor of Fort Cumberland, to Colo. Dunbar, representing the Danger we are in, & what may be expected from the Enemy. and Colo. Dunbar's Answer to him.

Under these forlorn Circumstances of being left without any Regular Forces, our Provincials deserted daily in great Numbers that now I think there is not one hundred Men in Fort Cumberland, and our Frontiers left open to the Insults of the Enemy.

Our last Assembly have voted 40,000 £ for the Service of the Expedition, and I wrote in my Forms for that I had sent out some Companies of Rangers to protect our Frontiers, they were but in Number. I was fully of Opinion that the Provincial Forces could march over the Allegany Mountains, & build a Fort in a proper Place for Provisions, to facilitate the Operations of next Year; and I wrote Governor Morris of Pensylvania on that Head, but as yet I have not received his Answer. Copy of my Letter to him I enclose You.

And as I was persuible the Companies of Rangers were not sufficient to protect our Frontiers, in Case of an Invasion from the Enemy; I have therefore granted Commissions to augment our Forces

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to 1000 Men, & have incorporated them into a [p. 5b4]
Regiment, / the Command thereof is given to Colo
George Washington who was one of General Braddock's
Aid de Camps and I think a Man of great
Merit and Resolution. Our Officers are greatly dis:
=pirited for want of His Majesty's Commissions,
that when they join the Regulars they may
have some Rank, and I am perswaded would
be of infinite Service if His Majesty would gra:
=ciously please to honor them with His Commis:
=sions, the same as General Shirley, and Sr William
Pepperill's Regiments; and I am convinced if General
Braddock had survived, he would have recommend:
=ed Mr Washington to the Royal Favour, which I
beg Your Interest in recommending the above Re:
=quest of our Officers.

I cannot fully describe the Uneasiness of
the People here on Colo. Dunbar's leaving our
Frontiers so greatly exposed, but at present they
are full of Resentment against the Enemy, &
appear willing to do any Thing in their Power
for the Service of the Expedition; but the Poverty
of the People will not allow them to do what
is sufficient, and we have no Assistance from the
two neighbouring Proprietary Governments of Maryland
and Pensylvania, their Obstinacy in not conforming

with His Majesty's Commands makes our Assembly the more backward.

I shall with the Forces now raising be on the Defensive till I have His Majesty's Commands, which shall be duly obey'd to the utmost of my Power and Capacity; but if it's thought proper to send more Forces for the Operations of next Year, I would recommend their being in Motion much earlier than those of this Summer.

I am ashamed to trouble You with so many Papers encloss'd, but I conceive they are proper to be laid before You, and as I think it my Duty to acquaint You with any Thing that relates to the Expedition: on these Accounts I hope I shall be excused.

We are in want of all Manner of War-like Stores and Ammunition, which I entreat You will represent to His Majesty, that we may be supplied. I remain with great Deference and due Respect—

Right Hon^ble

Your most obedient &
faithful humble Servant
[auto graph] [Rob^t Dinwiddie]

P. S: Tuesday last two of the Chief

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Warriors of the Cherokee Indeans
came here, with some Attendants.
I entertain'd them Yesterday, shall
bloath them, give them Presents and
endeavour to confirm their Friendship
to us—
Sr Thomas Robinson

[p 366]

Endorsed Virginia Sept.r 6th. 1755 / Lt Gov.r Din=
=widdie. / R. Oct.r 28th

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[p. 367]

To the Kings most Excellent Majesty

The humble Address of the Council and House of Burgesses of Virginia

Most gracious Sovereign,

We your Majesty's dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Council and Burgesses of Virginia, now met in General Assembly, beg Leave to assure your Majesty of those grateful Sentiments, with which your sending Forces for our Protection, from our cruel and perfidious Enemies, hath warmed our Hearts. And altho' it hath not pleased the Almighty Giver of all Victory, to prosper your Majesty's Arms, in this first Attempt to recover your undoubted Right to the Lands on the River Ohio, Yet We are so far perswaded of the Justice of your Cause, and of your Majesty's great Wisdom and Goodness in studying and pursuing the Means to promote the Welfare and Happiness of all your Subjects, that we cannot but entertain the most lively Hopes of the divine Favour on your future Endeavours

It becomes a Duty on us, particularly at this Time, to represent to your Majesty, the distressed and dangerous Situation of our Country, arising from the late unhappy Defeat of your

Forces, under the Command of General Braddock. By this fatal Event, and by Colonel Dunbar's marching the Remainder of the British Troops, taking with him the Independant Companies (ordered hither by your Majesty for our Relief and to be under the Command of your Lieutenant Governor) so early into Winter Quarters, the Frontiers are left almost naked and defenceless; with a Road now opened to invite our Enemies, and facilitate their Incursions; of which they have lately given us some cruel and bloody Instances, by murdering several of your Majesty's poor Subjects, sparing neither Age, Condition or Sex.

Touched with the most tender Sensations of Pity for their Sufferings, and fired with Resentiment at these shocking Barbarities, committed on our Fellow Subjects We have exerted our utmost Power in raising Money to levy and maintain a Body of Men to prevent a Repetition of such Cruelties; But alas! we have but too much Reason to apprehend, from the great Poverty and Inability of the People to pay these [p 360] Taxes, and from / the Want of Arms and Ammunition, that all we can do, will barely answer the End of preserving the Frontier Inhabitants in Safety, 'till this State of our extreme

Danger and Necessity is laid at your Majesty's Feet. And since it is on you, Most gracious Sovereign! that next under the Great Preserver of Kings and Nations, we depend for our Defences and Protection, We beseech your Majesty to take the unhappy Case of this your ancient Colony, under your Consideration, and to continue to extend to it, such Portions of your Royal Favour and Assistance, as your Wisdom and Love for your People will suggest, and their Distresses require.

In behalf of the Council

John Blair: Pr.

[autograph] [John Robinson Speaker]

[p. 370]

Endorsed Address from the Council & House of Burgesses / in Virginia / in Lr. Govr. Dinwiddie's / Letter of Sept. 6th. 1755 / 1

C.O. 5; 16

[371]

Virg.a Williamsburg Aug. 25th. 1755.

Sir

The People here are under great Dejec-tion on Col. Dunbar's marching for your Place for Winter Quarters. this Step gives our People almost as much Concern as the Defeat at Mo-nongahela, he has march'd the two Regiments & the three Independent Companies; the Road to the Ohio being open'd facilitates the Invasion of the Enemy & he left at Fort Cumberland near 400 Sick & Wounded & the Remains of the Provincial Troops who do not exceed above 170 Effective Men fit to do Duty, by what Authority he ordered the three Independent Companies to march with him, I know not as they were ordered by His Majesty immediately under my Command for the Service of this Country; after his March the Provincial's deserted Ten or twelve in Day, think-ing the Colonel had left them to be destroy'd by the Enemy: & it is more than probable that the French & Indians on hearing the March of the Regulars, they will come in a Body with Fire & Sword to destroy our frontier Settlements: I have represented this to the Secretary of State in its true Light, & I hope we shall have some Orders for a Regulation. In the meanw

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Time I have order'd out Six Companies of Rangers to protect our Frontiers, but what can they do against an Army (if they come in a Body) that defeated 1200 pick'd Men

Our Assembly rose last Saturday, in June they voted 23,000 ℔ now they have further voted 10,000 for the Service of the Expedition. I propose augmenting our Forces to 12000, & with the Assistance of Your Province & Maryland I would propose marching over the Mountains in the Month of October to build a Fort at the Great Crossing or at the Meadows & leave a Garison of 800 Men all the Winter. to carry six of the Guns from Fort Cumberland to order them to burn the Woods for a Mile round the Fort to prevent any Surprize, a Fort there will be of infinite Service on a second Attack next Spring against the Fort; for I think we shou'd not let the French remain quiet; they will become insolent their Indians emboldened, & ours dis-heartend; And Col°. Innes writes me that from the best Intelligence he can have he does not think they are more numerous at the Fort, than they were last Year; & as the General's Instructions &c. are fallen into the Hands of the Enemy, it's more than probable, as by that they are Masters

of our Plan of Operations, that many of the French & Indians are gone up the River to the Aid of Fort Niagara &c. in course their Numbers must be small at the Fort, & they must leave the Ohio in Oct.r to go for Canada, & its very likely they must be short of Provisions & all other Necessaries.

On seriously considering all these circumstances, I am of Opinion that the above Proposal is very eligible & doubt not being able to compleat our Plan as above in a Months Time. If Col.o Dunbar had entrench'd himself at the Meadows & sent to the different Governors for a Reinforcement it wou'd have been a wise Step; for Col.o Innes writes me, the Day after the Engagement the French destroy'd all our [4.97] / Artillery except the six Pounders, which they carried to their Fort being apprehensive that the main Body of our Army wou'd have made a second Attack, & afraid the Artillery wou'd have fallen into their Hands: it appears to me that an Infatuation attended all the Motions of our Forces— However, Sir, I think we shou'd endeavour to retrieve the great Loss we have sustain'd, & therefore I think building a Fort the other Side the Allegany will be a proper Step towards it;

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And as I hope Your Assembly have strengthen'd Your Hands to give a proper Assistance, & if my Proposal meets with Your Approbat.n I entreat You will write me the Number of Men You can supply. for 2000 Men now are better than double that Number in June & July next; & as the Regu-lars have left us it will be a glorious Step if the Provincial Troops shou'd effect building a Fort at the Meadows or any other proper Place the other Side the Allegany Mountains, which may be a Magazine for Provisions &c.a & may be near to supply the Army next Year on their Attack at the Fort - Our People at present are full of Spirit and Resentment, & I have great Reason to expect that they will exert themselves in opposing the Enemy & in the Protection of every Thing that is dear to them:

If we put this Scheme in prosecution we shall want a great many Tools, such as Pick-Axes, Shovels, Spades, & all other Utensils fit for constructing a Fort, with Nails Hammers Tomahawks &c.a which I hope You will be able to supply, for I formerly pick'd up all of these kinds that cou'd be purchas'd here. If it meets with Your Approbation Dispatch & Secrecy are absolute-ly necessary, I therefore entreat You to dispatch this

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Express with all imaginable Haste, in the mean Time I shall order the enlisting the Men to compleat our Number.

I much long for Accounts from Genl. Shirley & Genl. Johnson hoping they have had better Success than the Forces on the Ohio. Pray write me what News you have, & I remain with very great Respect

Hon.ble Sir

Your most Hble Servant

Robt. Dinwiddie

Govr. Morris –

Copy

$ 374

Endorsed Govr. Dinwiddie to / Govr. Morris / in
Lt. Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter / of Sept. 6th 1755 / 5

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Camp on the Carrying Place between the Mohawks River & Woods Creek Augt 13th 1755

Sir

I have but a Minutes Time before I proceed on my March for Oswego, to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Packet dated July 29th. inclosing Copies of Letters from Captain Orme & Major Washington to Yourself, & of one from Yourself to Col. Dunbar.

I am entirely of the same Sentiments with You, & accordingly have sent Colonel Dunbar a Letter with the Orders, Copies of both which I enclose to You.

The successful Execution of them will be of the last Importance to His Majesty's Service, & his own Honor, which seems to me deeply concerned in it

It will now Sir, depend upon Your own Government & those of Pensylvania & Maryland to assist him with Reinforcements Provisions Ammunition, Artillery, & Ordnance Stores, Carriages, Horses & all other Things necessary to fit him out for his March, & the Service he is order'd upon; & I have wrote to the same Effect to the Governors Morris & Sharpe, whose Assistance with Your own, I must entirely rely upon at this extraordinary Crisis

As to the Expence of the necessary Supplies, Your Honor, I know, + His Majestys two other Governors, will do the Brown all the Justice You can, in getting Your respective Assemblies to bear the whole, or as great a Part of it as possible; The Remainder of it, I must, for the the good of His Majestys Service which is now at Stake, submit to draw upon the Deputy Pay Master for, which You may depend upon, I will, trusting that the Government at Home will take proper Measures for reimbursing the Brown from the Colonies.-

I am with great Regard + Esteem-

Sir

Your Honors most humble
and most obedient Servant
W: Shirley

Copy

[p 376] Endorsed Major General Shirley's Letr. / to Governor Dinwiddie / Copy / in Lt Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter / of Sepr. 6th. 1755 / 2

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Copy of Col.o Innes's Letter, Governor of Fort Cumberland, to Col.o Dunbar [p. 377]

Aug. 6th 1755

Sir

I have sent this Express on purpose to acquaint You with the defenceless State this Garrison will soon be in — The recover'd Men of Yours & Sr Peter's late Regiment, according to Your Orders follow You to Day & To-morrow, to the amount of fifty three Men.

The Provincial Troops ever since You march'd from this, have continued deserting, with their non-commission'd Officers, from ten to fifteen every Night, so that, in a very little Time there will not be Men sufficient to cover the Sick & Wounded, & much less to do Garison Duty: Besides, upon my examining the State of the Garison, I cou'd not find I had so much as one Gunner or one Matross left me here to do the least Thing if ever so needful: This I thought incumbent upon me to acquaint You with in Time as they will increase upon me daily.

I am

Sir

Your Most Humble Servant

James Innis

Colo Dunbar's Answer to the above –

Aug. 7th 1765 –

Sir

I am just favour'd with Your Letter, & am sorry for the great Desertion from the Provincial Camp; the only Remedie I know is Your sending an Express to Governor Dinwiddie & telling him their Names with their Discription &c. that he may have them apprehended & brought to Justice; & while that is a doing to send You out of the 400 he lately mentioned he was raising, a Number to compleat the Companies of Virginia now with You.

I left You Rank & File 320 which was thought sufficient to garison the Fort; & when they are compleat to their Establishment, they will be many more. Capt. Dagworthy, & Capt. Dobbs shou'd also write to have their three Companies compleated. It greatly surprizes all here to hear so many of the Wounded have recover'd in four Day's, I am glad they do, but affraid they travel too soon.

On Your Account of the Artillery People I call'd on Capt. Ord, who made me the enclos'd Return, we leave this To-morrow &. hope in two Day's to get to Conegochege, where I propose to stay two or three Day's.

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Wishing You all Health & Happiness, my
Compliments to Sr John & Col° Burton –
I am &c.ª

Thomas Dunbar

Sir John St Clair wrote a Letter to
Col° Dunbar upon Receipt of the above to which
he received an Answer much to the same Purpose.
Upon which I wrote as follows –

[p 370]

Fort Cumberland Aug 14th 1755 –

Sir

Before the arrival of Your Answer of
the 11th Inst. to Sr John St Clairs I had finish-
-ed a Letter, & just pending it off with some
Accounts I had that Moment recewed, that You
might be thoroughly acquainted with every Circum-
-stance, & that whatever happen'd I might be justi-
-fied in having given You the earliest Notice I
cou'd; but upon my peeing the above Answer
which greatly surpriz'd me, I found it necessary
to write You in a fuller Manner than I had done.

A few Days ago I sent Lieut.r Savage,
with a Party of Men New upon the Scout. to-
-wards the Great Meadows, he returned last Night
& made the following Report. That two of the

advanc'd Scouts having discovered about fifty Indians in the Meadows, came running back to the Party, that about a Dozen Indians follow'd very close, four of which discover'd themselves to be Friends, came up to his Party with their two Men, & advised him immediately to turn back, otherwise he with all his Party wou'd be Scalp'd, for there were four hundred French at Col°. Dunbar's Camp, & had discovered the Stores that were buried there, & that they had an advanc'd Guard of 100 French besides Indians posted about a Mile beyond the Meadows; that the French were coming this way, & that the Indians, who were about 100 men, wou'd soon be amongst the Inhabitants, they told him likewise several other Particulars of less Consequence

I judg'd it absolutely necessary to lay the above Report before You; & notwithstanding the Counsel You have called & the Intentions You have determin'd upon & communicated to Governor Shirley, I must beg leave to trouble You once more. When I received the above Intelligence I communicated it to Col°. Burton & Sr. John St. Clair & it was unanimously our Opinion that the French intended to attack this Place, or to build a Fort near our Frontiers, from whence they may continually

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annoy us + perhaps lay all the back Parts of ther, + the neighbouring Provinces entirely waste: You must be very sensible from the Re: -presentations laid before You by Sir John St. blair + myself: that the bountey Troops are not to be depended upon, they still continue to de. -sert, which not only intimidates the few good Men that are amongst them, but likewise en: -courages the bad to follow their Example as fast as they find Opportunity: And if, according to Your Proposal, Gov. Dinwiddie was to compleat the Companies To-morrow, we cannot suppose he can find Recruits who shall make better Sol: -diers than those we already have, most of whom have been two Years in the Service + have seen Danger. As this then is the case, Sir, I think our next + principal Dependence must be upon You, Otherways for what Purpose have Your Troops been sent at so great an Expence to this Bountry.

[374]

/As to Your having communicated Your Resolutions to Gent Shirley, it was no doubt very proper, but his Orders, may reach You hear as well as at Shippensburg + I think it is, more than probable that he would have been better plea'd to hear of Your being at this Place where

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the Danger is great, than at Shippensburg where there is none but this You are best Judge of, & I only tell You my Sentiments as I think it is my indispensable Duty; And upon this Head must likewise communicate my Sentiments to Govr. Dinwiddie, Sharpe & Morris, who may make Applic=ations to Genl Shirley as they may see proper.

I will use all my Endeavours to de=fend the Place, but I that both Your Hospi=tal & Military Stores will be a very great Hin=drance & probably out of Your Power to remedie, tho' properly Your own immediate Charge, however both shall be disposed of as Time & Convenience will permit. — From all these Considerations Sir, I hope You will without Loss of Time, send what Assistance You judge necessary for the good of His Majestys Service & the Security of the Country: & I am very certain Govr. Shirley can never be dis=pleas'd when he finds You are so usefully em=ploy'd, notwithstanding any intended Resolutions You may have communicated to him.

The Indians told our Party that the French were acquainted that You had march'd with all the British Troops to Pensylvania & only leaving the Sick & Wounded at this Place, which no doubt has encouraged the French in their present Undertaking

whatever it is, & it is to be hoped that the Re-
:port of Your Return may be a Means of sending
them back without doing much Damage. We have
abundance of Provisions more than is necessary for
Your whole Command for some Months, which must
necessarily be in a great Measure lost, without
more People to consume it: but this I consider
not as an Argument for sending more Troops but
to remove any Objection that may be made against
their coming —

Yours &c.ª

James Innes

Copy of Colº Dunbar's Answer to the above.

Camp at Spires's 7 Miles from Carlile

Aug 19th 1755

Sir

Before the Receipt of Your Last Letter
of the 14th Instt I received one from Majr Genl
Shirley, directed to Fort Cumberland; in which
he orders me to march with the two Regiments
& the Independent Companies, with all Expedition
to Albany, & there to encamp till further Orders.
I hope Your Apprehensions about the Enemy are
groundless; in a former Letter You seem'd to
think Yourself in great Danger, & at the same

[p.100] time You told me, You had sent off fifty recover'd Men; It is true You were desired to send them, but if Your Danger was so immi=nent, why did You not detain Them? which was in Your Power to do as You may those that yet remain with You.

As I am now pursuing Genl Shirley's Orders I don't think myself impower'd, either to return my self or to send any Part of the Troops with me to Fort Cumberland; This is the Opinion of all the Field Officers here as well as my own; And, notwithstanding the Council You have called, we are unanimously of Opinion, that if You follow the Advice given You in my former Letters, Your may be very well enabled to withstand any Force the Enemy can bring against You. I desire my Compliments to Sr John St Clair, & tell him, I think it wou'd be advisable for him to follow us to Albany as soon as his Health will permit him.

I am / Sir

Your most obed.t hble Servant

Tho.s Dunbar

Copy

Endorsed Col.o Innes to Col.o Dunbar & / his Answers / in Lt Gov.r Dinwiddie's Letter / of Sept.r 6th 1755. / 4

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[p. 301.]

Orders for Colonel Thomas Dunbar

. Whereas by the Death of Major General Braddock the Command of all His Majestys Forces in North America devolves upon me, & from Advices receiv'd from the Governors of Pensylvania & Dominions of Virginia of the Defeat of Part of His Majestys Forces under the said late Generals Command, I think it for the good of His Majesty's Service, That an Attempt shou'd be made as soon as possible for the Reduction of the Forts Du Quisne & Presque Isle with the Forces now under Your Command, & those which shall be raised by the Governments of Pensylvania Maryland & Virginia, or either of them for the said Service— Now I do hereby direct, that upon the Receipt of these my Orders; (any Thing contain'd in my former Orders to You of the sixth Instant to the contrary thereof, notwithstanding) You collect as soon as may be, such Provisions, Pieces of Ordnance, Ammunition & Stores as You may meet with at Winchester & Fort Cumberland or else where in Virginia (reserving for the said Fort what You think necessary for the Defence thereof) as also such as You shall receive from the Lieutenant Governors of Pensylvania

+ Maryland; to whom, as also to the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, You will be pleas'd to make Application for the same) + those You leave in Your Retreat; + after making the proper Dispositions of His Majesty's Forces under Your Command + the Provincial Forces which You shall receive, You are immediately to march with the said Troops to Fort Du Quisne, at which Place I don't in the least doubt from Your Experience and good Conduct of Your safe arrival And You are to send me as soon as may be a Return of the Strength You march off with, as well as the Artillery Ammunition, Stores + Provisions &c.—

Upon Your Arrival with the Forces under Your Command before Fort Du Quisne You are to besiege it in the Manner You judge most proper for the Reduction thereof, + in case of Your Success against it You are to leave a Garison there sufficient for the Defence of it, + to proceed with the Remainder of the Forces under Your Command to the French Fort at Presque Isle, + attempt the Reduction thereof; + in case of Your Success against it, to leave a Garison in it sufficient for its Defence, both which Garisons are to remain there till further Orders — And in case of Your Failure in both these Attempts, (which God forbid)

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You are to make the most proper Disposition of His Majesty's Forces to cover the Frontiers of the Province particularly at the Towns of Shipensburg & Carlisle & at or near a Place called Mr. Dowell's Mill where the new Road to the Allegany Mountains begins in Pensylvania, from the Incursions of the Enemy untill you shall receive further Orders. — You will carry Mr. Mac Mullough, Mr. Orde the Officers of the Train of Artillery and Matrosses, as also such of His Majesty's Independent Companies, now posted at Fort Cumberland as you shall think proper with you to Fort Du Quesne.

[p. 307]

Lastly, If thro' any unforeseen Accident it should become absolutely impracticable for You to put these Orders in Execution, which yet I hope cannot be the Case then You are to follow my former Orders of the 6th Instant —

Wm Shirley

A true Copy
Exam.d by
Wm Alexander Sec.y

Endorsed Copy. / Major General Shirley's / Orders to Col.o Dunbar / Aug. 12th 1755 / in Lt. Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter / of Sept. 6th 1755.

[4 orig]

Virginia Williamsburg Octr 1st 1755

Right Hon[ble]

My last to You was the 6th of Sept[r] to which I pray to be refered. I wrote to the Governors of Maryland and Pensylvania the Ad:=vantage it would be to His Majesty's Service to build a Fort the other Side of the Allegany Mountains, as a Barrier against the French and their Indians, and to prevent their invading our Colonies; They answered that their Assemblies con:=tinued refractory and that they had not granted any Supplies; that what I proposed they thought absolutely necessary & were sorry they could grant no Assistance to so useful an Undertaking.

Col[o]. Dunbar having marched the three Independent Companies with him to Philadelphia, in his Letter to me which I troubled You with a Copy, he propos'd leaving the South Carolina Company at Winchester, but he afterwards order:=ed them to march with him; I think he determined to leave this Dominion as much ex:=posed as possible, by not allowing any of the Regulars to remain, & he is now in Philadelphia.

If the three Independent Companies had remained here, I shou'd have endeavoured, by join:=ing the Provincials with them, to ordered their

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March over the Mountains to build a Fort at a proper Place, and to have Garrisoned it with five hundred Men all the Winter, which I conceive would have kept the French on the Ohio in Awe; at same Time it wou'd have been of very great Use as a Magazine for Provisions &c. for any Operations that may be proposed for next Year; but now being disappointed of any Assistance, I am obliged to keep the Forces raised here on the Defensive to protect our Frontiers, and to train them to the use of their Arms to be ready to join any Forces that may be thought proper to be sent here next Spring.

Our People have been so greatly uneasy on Ye. Dunbar's leaving us so much exposed, that I have had Difficulty to bring them into good Temper; I tell them I do not know his Orders, but if he has done any Thing irregular it probably may be enquired into; and with Difficulty they have voted £40000 which qualifies me to raise 1000 Men; but if he had remained at Fort Cumberland, I think they would have raised any Sum in their Power for the Service of the Expedition.

The Nation has been at great Expences, that I dare not offer my Opinion further, than without

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Men and Money from Britain. these valueable Colonies will probably be much exposed to the In=sults of the French; and I hope the Parlia=ment will take into their Consideration the shameful Behaviour of the Proprietary Governments of Maryland and Pensylvania, by altering their Constitution.

I believe we could raise a Number of Men in this Dominion if the Officers were honor'd with His Majesty's Commissions, at present they are very slow and backward, by having no Rank when they join the Regulars (I mean the Field Offi=cers) which I humbly submit to You.

As Captain Orme, Aid de Camp to the Late General, intends home, I desire to refer the whole Transactions of the late unfortunate Affair on the Monongahela, to his Report; as he is a sensible Gentleman, was on the Spot and pri=vate to all the General's Operations, no doubt will [p.550] give a most exact Account of every Thing.

The Backwardness of the Colonies and their not joining as one Body in granting Supplies, has been of the worst Consequence to the Expedition and without something of an Union, or an Act of Parliament obliging each Colony to grant mutual Supplies, little can be expected if left to the As=semblies of each Province.

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No doubt it will surprize the Ministry that so few Indians joined Genl Braddock. I beg leave to observe that our friendly Indians of the Six Nations joined General Shirley and John=son in their Expeditions against Niagara and Crown Point. The Twightwees (who I believe are our Friends) live two hundred Miles the other Side of the Ohio, the French being between them and us, pre=vented their coming to our Assistance. Those on the Ohio were deterr'd by the French Threats, ex=cepting a few with their Chief Warrior Mone=calooeha, who attended the General in the Action, & I am told behaved well. The Southern Indians viz.t Cherokees & Catawbas, I have been soliciting their Friendship eighteen Months and they prom=ised four hundred of their Warriors; I have reason to think the French had account thereof; they sent forty of their Indians to the Cherokees to prevail with them to declare War against South Carolina, or to be Neuter; neither of which they would comply with; They afterwards hearing the Governor of South Carolina wanted a Meeting with them, which they encouraged them to meet him, the Time was prolonged till June when they met him; the very Time they were to join our Forces. The Governor proposed to them the Purchase of their

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Lands which they agreed to, & deliver'd Possession in their Method by a Bagg of Earth &c. which Purchase was attended with great Expence, & I think of no Service, as those very Lands were sur=rendered to His Majesty by their Emperor in London, in the Year 1729 - The Governor of South Carolina vaunts of this great Purchase, but I am well convinced, if the Expences & Presents given those People had been applied wholly for their Friendship & to encourage them to join'd our Forces would have been much more useful. For I fear the French will make use of their Pur=chase, by telling the Cherokees, their Brothers want only to purchase their Lands & will soon make Your Nation their Slaves; I am of Opinion these Arguments may be made use of by our perfidious Enemies - And I think this is a very unseasonable Time to purchase Lands from the Indians, when we are engaged in a War to protect the Lands the undoubted Right of the Crown.

I hope You will excuse my making the above Remarks, the Disappointment in not having those Indians to join our Forces phagreen'd me much; & the more as the Governor of South Carolina prom=ised his Interest with them, to send a number of their Warriors; but the French gained their Ends

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in keeping them at a great Distance from the Place of Action.

Some of Col° Dunbar's Friends have inserted in a Pensylvania News Paper, a pretended Justifi=cation of his Conduct; that his March to Phila.=delphia was by Orders of General Braddock; that his Men were naked wanted Shoes & Stockings, [p551] this last might have been supplied by a Wag=gon from Philadelphia with all necessaries; his March from Fort Cumberland to Philadelphia was double the Distance, to a proper Place the other Side the Allegany Mountains, for building a Fort; if he had Orders from the late General to march for Philadelphia, none of the Officers that have been here know any Thing of such Orders, & surely he had not Orders to march the Inde=pendent Companies ordered here by His Majesty for our protection.

I beg pardon for so long a Letter, & de=sire to assure You I remain with dutiful Respects

Right Hon^ble

Your faithful & most

obedient humble Servant

[illegible] [Robt Dinwiddie]

[October 3d]

RESEARCH USED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

October 3d Since writing the above Letter we have received an Account from New York, that General Johnson had an Engagement with the French, that he had defeated them, taken their General Prisoner & killed the second in Command, & upwards of 600 of their Forces; on which I con=gratulate You. I have not the Particulars of the Action, that the above is only from the New York Prints. At Nova Scotia the Squadron had taken several Ships with Provisions, & that they are in a very starving Condition at Louisburg. that I hope the Sword of Famine will do as much Ser=vice as the Sword of Steel.

I am most humbly

Yrs.

R:D:

P.S. I wrote you in my last of five Indians from the Cherokees, I trouble You with their Speech & my Answer —

[p.552]

Endorsed Virginia Oct.r 1st 1755 / Lt Gov.r Dinwiddie / Rd Dec.r 19th / No. 2.

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[p 531]

Virginia Williamsburg Oct.r 1st 1755

Right Honble

This Day I received Your Letter of the 9th of July, with a Copy of the French Am:= bassador's Memorial, by way of Complaint against me for a pretended ill Usage of Sieur Druillon and two Cadets, while Prisoners here, which Complaint is without any Foundation of Justice. When those People were taken Prisoners by Major Washington and brought to this City; Druillon said he was an Officer though he had no Commission to shew; however on his Assertion I gave him his Enlarge:= ment and allowed him ten Shillings pr Week and the Cadets seven Shillings and six Pence each; it was thought proper to move them and the other Prisoners to Winchester and from thence to Alexandria; the Private Men in Confinement, and he and the Cadets at Private Lodgings; and when Winter approached he and the other Prisoners complain'd for want of Cloths, I ordered them all proper Clothing.

They remained at Alexandria till General Braddock arrived there; he said it was improper they should remain there observing all his Motions. I on this applied to Commodore Keppel to take them on board His Majesty's Ships, he said he

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had no Directions about Prisoners therefore could not receive them; I then consulted with the Gen=eral, who agreed the Private Men should be put on board the Transports, two on each Ship to be carried to Britain, which was accord=ingly done.

As Sieur Druillon said he was an Of=ficer, I sent him, the two Cadets and a Ser=vant, to Hampton, to be sent Passengers on board any Ship bound for Briton, which was ac=cordingly done, and I paid twenty Pounds for their Passage. if they were maltreated on their Passage I am sorry for it, but he is guilty of Ingrati=tude in saying he was not well used here; I had many Complaints against him while here, of his bad Behaviour and impertinent Speeches; but I considered him as a Prisoner and winked at many of his Irregularities; and the Country complained that the Allowance I gave him was too much; besides the charge of his and the others Cloath=ing; which Treatment is much more than our People have when taken Prisoners, and I have a very bad return for all my Civilities to him.

They were Prisoners and in my Custody long before the Capitulation between Mons.r Villiers and Mr. Washington; The Council were of Opinion

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with me, that Mr Washington had no Power to capitulate for Prisoners not in his Possession, and therefore gave their Opinion to retain them here.

By my Orders, Colonel Innes who then commanded the Forces of this Dominion sent a Flag of Truce to the Commandant of the French Forces on the Ohio, complaining of the ill Treat=ment of several English Prisoners they had taken, who were sold publickly as Slaves; and that Mr Washington had no Power to capitulate for [p 55a] the Prisoners in my Possession; but, if he would return the two Hostages I would send him Sieur Druillon and two Cadets, which he reject=ed, and Vanbraam and Stobo are still Prisoners.

This is the true State of the Affair, in which I have acted with proper Caution, and with the Advice of His Majesty's Council. And I can assure You that Gentlemans Complaint is without the least Shadow of Reason, and this Complaint may probably occasion a more strict Usage of Prisoners if brought here, and I hope this Narrative will fully justify my Conduct.

There is one La Force who was taken Prisoner at the same Time & still continues in Prison; he is represented as a most wicked Fellow, that he has robbed many of our Back

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Settlers both here and to the Northward suspected of having Scalped many of our Fellow Subjects. The Council entreated me to retain him Prisoner he has frequently endeavoured to make his Escape; he was lately tampering with a Deserter, now in Prison with him, to break the Prison, which will fully appear by the enclos'd Affidavits, which I gave You the Trouble of, and desire Your Commands in regard to him; at present I have ordered him to close Confinement.

If I have been irregular in my Conduct, I shall be glad to be set right, in case any such Affair should hereafter occur - And I beg Leave to assure You that I remain with humble Respects

Right Hon^ble^

Your faithful and obedient
humble Servant

[Robt Dinwiddie]

Sir Thomas Robinson

[P506] Endorsed Virginia Oct^r 1^st^ 1755 / Lt Gov^r Dinwiddie/
Rx Dec^r 19^th^ / No 1.

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[Mayor's Court] [p. 557]

Depositions taken before George Gilmer and John Randolph one of the Aldermen for the City of Williamsburg this twenty ninth Day of September 1755

The Deposition of John Hill

This Deponent, being first sworn, de=poseth and saith. That Mr Laforce desired him this Deponent to let him know the Night be=fore he was to be sent to the Regiment he belonged, that he might make his Escape for after, he this Deponent was sent away, he was afraid he should not have the Liberty of the Prison Yard. That he asked this De=ponent whether he would go along with him to the French Fort, if he would, that he would take five or six Negros as Prisoners by the Way, and carry them either to the French Fort or Canada, and that this Deponent should have Part of the Money they would sell for; That Mr Laforce told him he should either live with him in Canada or he would give him Money to pay for his Passage to England, that he this Deponent replied he had once fled from his Colors, which he was sorry for, and never would do again especially to his Enemy. That Mr Laforce declared, when he got to the

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French Fort, he would prevail either upon the General or Governor of Havana to let him have a Company of Men, and he would come down to take the Gov.r Prisoner, and would burn him by peice Meals so that he should be a Month dying. that this Deponent replied, it was a very cruel Death, upon which Mr La force said, damn him why did he not release me sooner or send me to England with the other Prisoners.

John Hill

[p.559]

/The Deposition of Vincent Taylor

This Deponent, being first sworn, deposeth and saith That he over heard some Discourse between John Hill and Mr Lafore which he believes to be the same mentioned in the said Hill's Deposition, that upon their Parting, he saw them shake Hands and Mr Laforce desired Hill not to mention it to Mr Penman the Gaoler to which Hill replied, no not to his Brother and that he understood Mr Leforce intended to get over the Prison Walls about Three o'Clock this Afternoon.

Vincent Taylor

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We do hereby certifie that the above Depositions were taken before us the Day and Year above written

Geo: Gilmer Mayr:
John Randolph

Endorsed in Lt Govr Dinwiddies Letter / of [p 560]
Octr 1st 1755 (No 1)

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Williamsburg Sept.r 6th 1755 [p.061]

Brothers—

I with Pleasure receive You as Messengers from Old Hop & the other Chiefs of the Cherokees, & more so as Old Hop's Son is one of You, & I heartily bid You welcome.

Your kind offer of Service to your Brothers the English, & your great Concern for the Murders & Devastation made on Your Brethren on Holston's & New River I take very kindly. I believe Your Intentions of coming to our Assistance agreable to my Letter last Winter, but am sorry the French Indians prevented You then; & that the Governor of South Carolina prevented Your coming this Summer as probably that Gentleman had some Affairs of Consequence to say to Your Chiefs. Tho You think my Messenger will not return before You get Home. I desire You will with all Expedition proceed, that I may have an Answer to my Message by him.

I shall be glad if Your Nation will send soome of Your Warriors to Holston's & New River to remain there this Winter to protect your Brothers from the Barbarities of the French Indians & the Shawnees (who I believe have

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committed the Cruelties on your Brethren) & You shall fare as your Brothers do; & shall be glad if your Nation can bring the Shawnoes to Justice for their great Cruelties.

I have ordered Forts to be built on Holstons & New River, where your Brothers will receive You kindly, & shall accordingly give Directions thereon. I am sensible your Nation can fight the Enemy Indians better than Your Brothers the English; I shall therefore be glad when You get Home to know, if they will assist us with a Number of their Warriors, when we have Occasion to go to War with our & Your Enemies. I desire You will inform your Chiefs what Cruelties the Shawnoes have done, & I hope they will make proper Resentment thereof. I shall take the necessary Care in sending Messengers to You for the Future & with such People as may be agreeable to your Nation. I heartily wish that strict Love & sincere Friendship may always subsist between the Cherokee Nation & your Brothers the English while the Mountains remain or the Trees grow. In Confirmation thereof & of what I have now said, I give You

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these Strings of Wampum
Also these Necessaries which Gave the Strings —
I am told will be agreeable to You

Robt. Dinwiddie

Copy

[p. 562]

Endorsed in Lt Govr Dinwiddies Letter 1 (No 2.) of
Octr 1st 1755

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Williamsburg Sept.r 5th: 1755 [1755]

At a Meeting in the Governor's House with two Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation.

On the Governor's asking what was the occasion of their coming — Son to Old Hop (being the Chief) answered.

Brother

We are sent by my Father and our other Warriors to receive Your Directions in what Manner they can be most serviceable to their Brothers the English; & to give their Reasons for not coming to Virginia to go to War on the Ohio, according to their Message sent You last Fall. A Number of our Warriors were in readiness to sett off, but a Party of Northward Indians in the French Interest, that came to War against our Nation prevented. This Summer a great Number of our People had agreed to come here & were to have set off with us, but on receipt of a Letter from Governor Glen a few Days before we came away, they all went to meet him at Tenessee.

I was greatly concerned to find the Settlers on the Frontiers of Virginia, had deserted their Plantations and left their Corn &c.a on the Ground, and we found many killed. I met a Messenger from You with a Letter to our Nation, but

Brother, I determined not to return before I had seen You, for there will be nothing done before I go back & repeat what You say, which will be observed by our Warriors the same as if You was present & they will readily do what You may advise, for the French & their Indians have done our Nation as much Injury as our Brothers.

Brother

If You will supply a small Number of Men with Arms & Ammunition & build a Fort on Holstons & New River; I will engage our Assist-ance to protect the Lands now deserted & preserve the Grain left by the Inhabitants; I believe 100 Men in each Fort with a Number of our Warriors may be sufficient: And desire You would send out four or five white People with a Party from our Nation; our Brothers fight very strong but cannot follow an Indian by the Foot as we can. And it is not so far to those People (the Shawnees) who have done this Mischief, as You imagine, for we can go there in seven Nights, but should it be longer, we are going to War & must submit to Hardships to obtain Satisfaction for the Injuries done us by our Enemies.

Any Messenger that may be sent to our Nation for the future, I am to let You know,

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our Warriors desire they may be directed to Mr. Pearis, or this Interpreter, for they are People that have lived long amongst us, & we believe they will not tell a Lie.

I assure you Brother I speak from my Heart, & hope you will believe what I have said, and in Confirmation thereof I give You this Belt of Wampum —

Gave the Belt

Copy

in Lt Govr. Dinwiddie's Letter (No. 2) [p. 562]
of Octr 1st 1755

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Virginia Williamsburg Nov.r 15th 1755 [p. 509]

Right Hon.ble

Inclosed You have Copies of my two last Letters of the 1st of Oct.r - Since that I received Your Favour of the 19th of June, and shall give due Obedience thereto. I never presumed to draw any Bills for Sums on Account of the Expe:=dition, but for the ten thousand Pounds Credit for which I had Orders to draw on Messrs. John Hanbury and that with the Money sent me shall be duly accounted for to You, and as soon as I get in the respective Accounts, I shall transmit You an Account of the whole.

Since my last and ever since the Regu:=lars left our Frontiers, we have been very much harrassed with flying Parties of French and Ind:=dians robbing and murdering our back Inhabitants: and by a Letter I received by Express this M.r:.t from the Governor of Pensylvania, there are fifteen hundred of French and Indians got into their Province to the River Susquehanna, committing the most horrid Cruelties in murdering our People, and propose building a Fort on that River, and threaten to com into into this Dominion: To prevent their wicked Designs, & to protect the Country I have four Companies of Rangers about

two hundred Men, four hundred new Levies sent to Fort Cumberland, which will make the Numb=er in that Fort five hundred & thirty one; And I have ordered a Draught from our Militia of four hundred to march to join them; they can only be on the Defensive.

And I am humbly of Opinion, that two Regiments from Britain to this Place, and two more to New York will be absolutely necessary for conducting this Expedition with Spirit: and, with the Blessing and Protection of God, I am in Hopes they will be sufficient to destroy the wicked Designs of the French, restore Peace, and establish His Majestys just Rights to His Domin=ions on this Continent. As the French Attacks are divided on our Settlements to the Northward and Southward is the Reason of my proposing two Regiments to New York, & two for this Do=minion, and good Generals and Field Officers are much to be desired.

I must further remarke, that the Pro=vincial Troops will be much better under their own Officers Command, and, as before, if they are honor'd with His Majestys Commissions they will act with much more Gallantry and Resolution when they have Rank when joined with the Regulars,

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which I must humbly submit.

I observe, That neither the Regulars, or Provincials, are accustom'd to fight as the Indians do; and without some of the Indians to join our Forces we may have the like Misfortune as at Monongahela; I am therefore determined to send Commissioners to the Southward Indians, the Cherokees and Catawbas, with a proper Present, to engage them to send in the Spring five hundred of their Warriors; And to give proper Weight to these Commissioners, and draw due Re:spect from the Indians, I propose to prevail with one or two of the Council here to go; and, as I think this Step so essentially necessary, I shall direct the Commissioners, after delivering the Present, to give them further Assurances of our sincere Friendship, Protection, and any other En:=couragement they may reasonably desire; This Af:=fair I have much at Heart and have been some Time soliciting, and if it had not been some Affairs intervening to the Southward, I was in hopes of succeeding last Year.

General Braddock was so prepossesed of Success, that he desired me to purchase a large Quantity of Beeves to be drove to the Ohio; there is now near twelve hundred at Fort Cumberland

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and Winchester, many of them I am engaged to pay, and I have given Directions for salting some, & to keep others at Pasture till the Spring.

We shall not be able to do any Thing considerable here without Regulars from Britain, and proper General Officers: I must therefore keep our Forces on the Defensive till I have his Majestys Commands, which I shall earnestly expect in the Spring, and shall be duly obeyd

The above Observations and Remarks I trouble You with as I shall always think it my indispensable Duty to lay before You every Thing that I may conceive for His Majestys Service, and the Protection of His Dominions on this Continent.

I assure You I remain with great Reverence and due Respect

Right Honble

Your most obedient and

faithful humble Servant

Robt Dinwiddie

Sir Thomas Robinson

Nov 17th

PRESERVED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Nov^r 17^th 1755 [page]

Sir

Since writing the above I have Last Night an Express from Hampton to acquaint me of the arrival of two Sloops & four more daily expect:=ed with Neutrals from Nova Scotia, said to be upwards of one thousand People, it is very dis:=agreeable to the People to have imported among us such a Number of French People when many of that Nation, join'd with Indians are now murdering & scalping our frontier Settlers; I shall call & consult the Council what is to be done with them.

I must further inform You, that Admiral Boscawen, on my Letter to him, has sent five hundred barrels of Gun Powder and four hun:=dred Small Arms; a very seasonable & agreeable Supply as our Magazine was quite empty, & in great want for the new Levies.

I always am

Hon^ble Sir

Your most obed^t hble Servant

Rob^t Dinwiddie

[page]

Williamsburg 15. & 17 Nov^r / 1755 / Lt. Gov^r Dinwiddie / Rec^d 31. Dec^r

DESCRIPTION FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

[p.207]

Extract of a Letter from Halifax, dated the 25th August 1755.

Since I wrote you I am favoured with your Letters of the 7th & 23d May, the last p Capt Ball, and thank you for your Intelligence; our Fleet unluckily did not meet only part of the French Fleet and in chacing them a Fog came on, by which Means they got off, except Two, of which you have heard long since by the Express Admiral Boscawen sent away about the 20th June; Since that nothing material has happened by Sea. Only that our Fleet being very sickly, the Admiral thought proper to come in here with his & Mostyn's Squadron, whilst Mr Holburne cruizes off of Louisbourgh with Six Sail of Capital Ships and several Frigates are scouring the Coast of Island Royal and the Harbours about Cape Ray in Newfoundland, where some French Ships [p.208] keep a Fishery/ and we daily expect to hear that Capt Rous, who commands those Frigates, has made Prizes of some of those French Ships, as there has been but one Snow taken off of Louisbrough bound there with Flour and Pork. We have reason to believe that several Provision Vessels have got into that Place as we learn by

the Master of the one that has been taken who loaded at Bourdeaux, that there was about Ten other Vessels sailed from said Place before him with the like Cargos, and as they have not fallen into our Hands, they certainly have slipp'd in by Favour of Weather, that made our Ships keep off the Land, So that that Garrison must be well supplied with Provisions; could those Vessells have been prevented getting in there, that place must have thrown themselves into our Hands, as they were actually starving about the Beginning of July, this we know for certain by the Vessels who carried the People of the [Loss] Garrison of / Beau Sejour to Louisbourgh after the Capitulation; at that time I say they were so much straightned that they sent us here about Twenty Irish People who had lived there Two or Three Years, and whom they could not subsist, which shews plainly their Distress, in sending them who knew their Situation as well as themselves: We indeed judged here that those People were sent on Purpose, that we might come and take the Place to release them from Hunger.

Admiral Boscawen's Fleet still remains here, when they may sail I can't say. the Seamen recover fast, and it is thought will be recruited

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in about a Fortnight, at which time he may probably go to Sea and cruize off of Louisbourgh for some time, whilst Admiral Holburn's Squadron comes in here to refresh themselves, and that Squa-
=dron may perhaps remain here late in the Fall, or as Things may turn out all the Winter, but at all Events there will be some Ships of Force remain/here to watch the Motions of our Neigh-
=bours who you know are always plotting against us, however they will, I flatter myself, have no great Advantage over us. [p.210]

We are now at the 30th of August and have Advice by a Vessel just arrived from New York in five Days that General Amherst with a large Body of Troops are at the Falls of Niagara with the Body of Indians trained up under Colonel Johnson; and that Colonel Johnson with a large Body of New England and Connecticut Troops + some expert Indians are near to Crown Point, which they intend to besiege and in order to secure good Retreat to themselves in case of Need, Johnson has built a Fort about Thirty Miles from Crown Point, to be made Use of in case of Need, we have great Reason to hope that we shall yet work the French.

As to our Fleet on this Coast, they take

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Vessels bound to Louisbourgh, when they can meet
them; three days ago Admiral Holburn sent in
[p 411] here Three Snows, two from the French Islands
in the West Indies with Molasses and Rum and
one from Bourdeaux with Salt, Wine and sundry
other goods; Admiral Boscawen causes the Vessels
and Cargoes to be sold as soon as they arrive,
and I am the Agent for selling them; by the
Portmahon who arrived here with the Three Snows
abovementioned we have Advice of the Terrible, Mr
Holburne's (sic) being so sickly that he has ordered her
here and hoisted his Flag on board the Edin-
burgh, that the Grafton is also ordered here
with the Terrible, being also very sickly. Those
Ships are looked for every Moment and are to
bring with them Four French Ships from Old
France, loaded with Flour & Meat, the four to-
gether are One Thousand Tons; the Loss of them
to the Garrison of Louisbourg must be very great.
If it (sic) a War should be declared now, and that
we knew it, it would be very easy to take
Louisbourgh as we could, tho' drawing towards the
[p 412] Fall, send a sufficient Force from this Colony to
do it, as we have the Two Thousand New Eng-
land Forces yet in the Bay of Fundy, and we
could spare some Regulars from hence and with

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the Heap of the Fleet I think it might fall easily a Prey to us, and then blow it up in the Air, which would prevent them making a Nest for their shipping and prevent them from having Cruizers and Privateers to disturb our Trade in North America, thus far for News.

[Folio 114]

Endorsed Copy of a Letter / from Halifax, dated / 25th August 1755-

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[p 815]

Sir

I take this early Opperturnity of the Philadelphia Post of acequainting You by a Ship bound from thence to Europe of my Arrival in this Province the 2d. Instant and the next Day Landed + Published His Majestys Commission.

I have also Notified my Arrival to the Governours of the several Provinces, at the same time forwarded to them Your Letters.

I beg leave to assure You that I shall pay all due regard to the directions of the Lords Justices, contained in Your Excellencys Letter to me of the 19th June last. my time here has been to short to acquaint You with many particulars of this Province, I found them fully employed in fortifying the City + Port.

And the Assembly sitting on a Message sent them by the Lieut. Governor to assist the Government of Connecticut who were raiseing 2000 Men for the Reinforceing Major General Johnson who Commands the Expedition against Crown Point; as they had not concluded that Business; I sent them a Message desireing them to give it all [p 816] dispatch, + Yesterday they sent me / a Message

acquainting me that they had taken it into their consideration and had agreed to raise £6000 for Supplying those new raised Levys of Connecticut with all such things as they may want, requesting me to send Governor Fitch an account of this Vote, which I did last night by Express.

I shall make it my Business to be informed in all such things as may promote His Majestys Service, at this Important Juncture.

I have the Honour to be—

Sir

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant

[Thos Fitch] [Thos Hardy]

Fort George New York
the 6th Sept. 1755—

To the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Robinson

[Public Record Office] Endorsed Fort George New York / 6th Sept. 1755 /
Govr Hardy / R 6. Novr

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[p 419]

Halifax 18th October 1755.

Sir,

I had the honour to receive your letter of the 19th of June 1755, and shall most punctually observe the Orders therein contained.

Since my last of the 18th of July 1755, the french Deputies of the different Districts have appeared before the Council to give a final answer to the proposal made them, of taking the Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty, which they presisted [p 420] in/positively refusing, and tho' every means was used to point out to them their true interest, and sufficient time given them to deliberate maturely upon the step they were about to take nothing could induce them to acquiesce in any measures that were consistent with his Majestys honour or the Security of his Province.

Upon this behaviour the Council came to a Resolution to oblige them to quit the Colony, and imediatly took into consideration, what might [p 421] be the speediest, cheapest, and safest/method of giving this necessary resolution its intended effect; we easily foresaw that driving them out by force of Arms to Canada or Louisbourg would be attended with great difficulty, and if it had succeeded would have reinforced those Settlements with

a very considerable body of Men who were ever, universally, the most inveterate Enemies to our Religion and Government, and now highly enraged at the loss of their Possessions: The only safe means that appeared to us of preventing their Return
[A 422]
or their collecting themselves again into / a large Body was distributing them among the Colonies from Georgia to New England, accordingly Vessels were hired at the cheapest Rates. The Embarkation is now in great forwardness, and I am in hopes some of them are already sailed and that there will not be one remaining by the end of next Month.

I have the honour to transmit You, Sir, a Copy of the Records of Council concerning this Transaction, also a Copy of the Letter to the different Governors upon the Continent.

[A 423]
/ I think it my duty, Sir, to acquaint you that it will be highly necessary for the Security of the Province to Fortify the Isthmus of Chignecto as early in the Spring as possible The french forts both at Beausejour and upon the Bay Verte are put into the best repair that the time would permit, but they are neither strong enough, nor will they contain a sufficient number of Men to resist any considerable Force; it is also

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of the highest Importance that there should
be a Fort of some strength at St. Johns River, [p.424]
to prevent the French resettling there, as well
as to awe the Indians of that District.

The number of Troops that escaped Admiral Boscawen's Squadron and got into Louis-bourg, makes it absolutely necessary to keep a considerable Force this Winter upon the Isthmus of Rhegnecto. I advised with His Majestys Council, Vis Admt Boscawen and Rear Admiral Mostyn upon this Subject, and they were unanimously of Opinion that the Two Thousand New Eng-land Troops Raised for the Expedition could [p.425]
not be discharged with any prospect of Secur-ity to the Province, untill the intended Aug-mentation of the Troops was compleated. It is not in my power at present to spare any Troops to take Post at Banse, but I shall be very watchfull of the French in that part, and use all my endeavours to oppose any Attempt they may make to settle there, tho' in the last letter I received from the Governor of Louisbourg, Copy of which with my answer, I had the Honour to transmit you, he lays no other claim for the french to Banse but its Neutrality, and it is observable that all the [p.426]

former Governors since the Year 1749, have claimed
Canso as a Part of the French Territory.—

[I am with the greatest
deference and respect
Sir
Your most obedient and
most humble Servant
Chas Lawrence]

The Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson.

Endorsed Halifax Oct.r 18th 1755 / L.t Gov.r
Lawrence / R. Nov.r 16th

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[B 427 p.1 of 4]

Copy For the Secretary of State

At a Council holden at the Governors House in Halifax on Thursday the 3d July 1755.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj: Green
Jno Collier
Willm Cotterell
Jonn Belcher
} Council

The Lieutenant Governor laid before the Council the two following Memorials Signed by the Deputies and a number of the french Inhabitants of Minas and Piziquid, and delivered to Capt Murray the Commanding Officer there, by whom they had been Transmitted to His Excellency.

"Aux Mines le 10 Juin 1755.

"A Son Excellence Charles Laurence Ecuyer,
"Gouverneur de la Province de la Nouvelle [B.426- p.2.]
"Ecosse ou Accadie Vre. Vre. Vre.,

"Monseigneur "

"Les Habitans des Mines, de Piziquid et de "la Riviere aux Canards, prennent la liberté de "s'approcher de Votre Excellence pour luy temoigner "combien ils sont sensibles a la Conduitte que le

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"Gouvernement tien a leur egard, Il paroit Monseigneur
"que Votre Excellence doute de la Sincerité avec la-
"-quelle nous avons promis d'etre fidels a Sa Majesté
"Britannique. Nous puppliens tres humblement Votre
"Excellence de considerer notre Conduite passée, elle
"voira que bien loin de fausser le Serment que
"nous avons prettés, nous l'avons maintenus dans
"son entier, malgré les Sollicitations et les Menaces
"effrayantes d'une autre Puissance Nous sommes
"Auyourd'huy Monseigneur dans les memes disposi-
"-tions, les plus pures et les plus sinceres de prouver
"en toutte Circonstance une fidelité a toutte epreuve
"pour Sa Majesté, de la meme facon que nous
"l'avons fait jusqu'ici, tant del que Sa Majesté
"nous laissera les mêmes Libertés qu'elle nous a
"accordés. A ce sujet, nous prions instemment votre
"Excellence de vouloir nous informer des Intentions
"de Sa Majesté sur cet Article, et de vouloir
"bien nous en donner des Assurances de Sa part.

"Permettez nous s'il vous plait Monseigneur
"d'exposer icy les Circonstances genantes dans lesquelles
"on nous retiens, au prejudice de la Tranquilité dont
"nous devons Jouir. Sous pretexte que nous trans-
"-portons notre Bled ou autre denrées a la pointe
"de Beausejour, et a la Riviere St. Jean, il ne
"nous est plus permis de faire le moindre transport

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"de Blé par eau d'une Endroit a l'autre, Nous
"supplions Votre Excellence de croire que nous n'avons
"jamais transporté aucune Provision de vivre, ni a
"la pointe ni a la Riviere St. Jean. Si quelques
"Habitans refugiés a la pointe ont été saisies avec
"/des Bestiaux, nous n'en sommes aucunement coupables, [p.430 p.43]
"d'autant que les Bestiaux leurs appartenoient
"en particulier et qu'ils les conduisoient sur leurs
"Habitations respectives. quant a nous Monseigneur
"nous n'avons jamais delinqué sur ces sortes de
"matiere, par consequent nous devrions, ce nous
"semble, n'en etre pas punis, au contraire nous
"esperons qu'il plaira a votre Excellence nous
"rendre la meme liberté que nous avions b ij
"devant en nous rendant l'usage de nos bandes,
"soit pour transporter nos besoins d'une Riviere
"a l'autre, soit pour faire la Pêche et par
"la subvenir a notre Nourriture, cette permission
"ne nous a jamais été ôtée qu'a présent, nous
"esperons Monseigneur, qu'ils vous plaira nous la
"rendre surtout en Consideration de quantité des
"pauvres Habitans qui seroient bien aise de subs-
"=ptanter leur famille avec le Poisson qu'ils pour-
"=roient prendre."

"De plus nos Fusils, que nous/regardons [p.431 p.5.]
"comme nos propres Meubles, nous ont été enlevés

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"malgré qui nous sont d'une derniere necessité,
"soit pour deffendre nos Bestiaux qui sont attaqués
"par les Betes Sauvages, soit pour la Conservation
"de nos Enfans et de nous memes, tel Habitan
"qui a ses Bœufs dans les Bois, et qui en
"a besoin pour ses Travaux, n'oseroit s'exposer
"a aller les chercher, sans etre en etat se deffendre
"et de se conserver, il est certain Monseigneur que
"depuis que les Sauvages ne frequentent plus nos
"Quartiers, les Betes feroces sont extrémmement aug-
"mentées, et que nos Bestiaux en sont devorés
"presque tous les Jours. d'ailleurs les Armes que
"l'on nous enlevent, sont un foible garant de
"notre fidelité, ce n'est pas ce fusil que possede
"un Habitan qui le portera a la Revolte, ni
"la privation de ce meme Fusil que le rendera
"plus fidel, mais sa Conscience seule le doit en-
"=gager a maintenir son Serment.

"Il paroit un Ordre de par votre Excellence
[4 432 p 6.] "donné au Fort Edward le 4me. / Juin 1756 et de
"la 28me Année du regne de Sa Majesté, Signé
"A. Murray, par lequel il nous enjoints de trans-
"=porter les Fusils, Pistolets — au Fort Edward, il nous
"paroit Monseigneur qu'il nous seroit dangereux
"d'executer cette Ordre, (dans le supposé qu'il s'en
"trouva encore quelques uns qui auroient echapés a

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"la recherche exacte que l'on en a faite) avant
"que de vous representer le danger auquel cet
"Ordre nous expose, les Sauvages peuvent venir
"nous menacer et nous saccager en nous reprochant
"que nous avons fournis des Armes pour les
"tuer, Nous esperons Monseigneur que bien loin de
"nous le faire executer avec tant de danger, qu'il
"vous plaira au contraire d'ordonner que l'on
"nous remette ceux que l'on nous a enlevées et
"nous procurer le moyen par la, de nous conserver
"nous et nos Bestiaux.

"En dernier lieu, il nous est douloureux
"Monseigneur de nous voir coupables sans le scavoir, [Ms 439 p. 7]
"un de nos Habitans de la Riviere aux Canards,
"nommé Pierre Melancon, a été Saisi et arreté
"avec la Charge de son Canot, avant d'avoir
"entendu aucun Ordre portant deffence de ces
"sortes de Transports. Nous supplions a ce Sujet
"Votre Excellence de vouloir nous communiquer son
"bon plaisir, avant de nous confisquer et de
"nous mettre en faute. Se sont les Graces que
"nous attendons des bontés de Votre Excellence, et
"nous esperons que vous nous ferez la Justice de
"croire que bien loin de vouloir, transgresser nos Promesses, nous les maintiendrons en assurant que nous sommes

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"Tres respectueusement

"Monseigneur

"Vos tres humble et tres

"obeissants Serviteurs

Signed by Twenty five of the
said Inhabitants

[p.434 p.e]

"Aux Mines ce 24 Juin 1755.,

"A Son Excellence Charles Lawrence Ecuyer,

"Lieutenant de la Province de la Nouvelle

"Ecosse ou Acadie, V.e V.e T.e.,

"Monseigneur,

"Tous les Habitans des Mines, de Pisiquid
et de la Riviere aux Canards supplient Votre
"Excellence de croire que si dans la Requette qu'ils
"ont eu l'honneur de presenter a Votre Excellence,
"il se trouvoit quelque faute, ou quelque manque
"de respect envers le Gouvernement, que c'est contre
"leur intention, et que dans ce cas, les Habitans
"qui l'on Signé ne sont pas plus coupables que
"les autres. Si quelque fois il se trouve des
"Habitans embarassées en presence de Votre Excellence
"ils supplient tres humblement de vouloir excuser
[p.435 p.e] "leur timidité; et si contre nôtre/attente il se
"trouvoit quelque chose de dure, sur la dite Requette,

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"nous prions Votre Excellence de nous faire la
"grace de pouvoir expliquer notre Intention les
"sont les faveurs que nous esperons qu'il plaira
"a Votre Excellence de nous faire en la suppliant
"de croire que nous sommes tres respectueusement,
"Monseigneur
"Vos tres Humbles et tres
"obeissants Serviteurs.

Signed by Forty four of the
said Inhabitants in the Name of the whole.

The Lieutenant Governor at the same time acquainted the Council that Capt. Murray had informed him that for sometime before the delivery of the first of the said Memorials, the french Inhabitants in general had behaved with greater Submission and Obedience to the Orders of the Government than usual, and had readily de:=livered in to him / a considerable number of their Fire Arms, but that at the delivery of the paid Memorial they treated him with great Indecency and Insolence, which gave him strong Suspicions that they had obtained some Intelligence which we were then ignorant of, and which the Lieu:=tenant Governor conceived might most probably be [p. 436 p. 10]

a Report that had been about that Time spread amongst them of a french Fleet being then in the Bay of Fundy, it being very no=torious that the said french Inhabitants have always discovered an insolent and inimical dispo=sition towards His Majesty's Government when they have had the least hopes of Assistance from France.

The Lieutenant Governor likewise acquaint=ed the Council that upon his receipt of the first Memorial, he had wrote to Capt. Murray [Page 11] to order all those who had signed the / same to repair forthwith to Halifax to attend him and the Council thereon, and that they were accord=ingly arrived and then in waiting without.

The Council having then taken the Contents of the said Memorials into Consideration, were unanimously of Opinion That the Memorial of the 10th of June is highly arrogant and in=pidious, an Insult upon His Majesty's Authority and Government, and deserved the highest Resent=ment, and that if the Memorialists had not submitted themselves by their subsequent Memorial, they ought to have been severely punished for their Presumption.

The Deputies were then called in and

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the Names of the Subscribers to the Memorial read over, and such of them as were present ordered to answer to their Names, which they did to the Number of Fifteen, the others being sick; after which the Memorial itself was again read and they were severely [page p.12] reprimanded for their Audacity in Subscribing and presenting so impertinent a Paper, but in Compassion to their Weakness and Ignorance of the Nature of our Constitution, especially in Matters of Government, and as the Memorialists had presented a subsequent one, and had shewn an Appearance of Concern for their past behaviour therein, and had then presented themselves before the Council with great Submission and Repentance, The Council informed them they were still ready to treat them with Lenity, and in order to shew them the falsity as well as Impudence of the Contents of their Memorial, it was ordered to be read Paragraph by Paragraph, and the Truth of the several Allegations minutely discussed, and Remarks made by the Lieutenant Governor on each Paragraph to the following Effect, viz.t

[page p.13] It was observed in answer to this Paragraph of their Memorial of the 10th of June,

"That they were affected with the Proceedings

"of the Government towards them"

That they had been always treated by the Government with the greatest Lenity and Tenderness. That they had enjoyed more Privileges than English Subjects, and had been indulged in the free Exercise of their Religion. That they had at all Times full liberty to consult their Priests and had been protected in their Trade and Fishery, and had been for many Years permitted to possess their Lands (part of the best Soil of the Province) tho' they had not complied with the Terms, on which the Lands were granted, by Taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Crown.

They were then asked whether they could produce an Instance that any Privilege was denied to them, or that any hardships were ever imposed upon them by the Government.

[P mo p 113] They acknowledged the Justice and Lenity of the Government.

Upon the Paragraph where

"They desire their past Conduct might
"be considered"

It was remarked to them that their past Conduct was considered and that the Government were sorry to have occasion to say that their

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Conduct had been undutiful and very ungratiful for the Lenity shewn to them. That they had made no retiurns of Loyalty to the Crown or Respect to His Majesty's Government in the Province That they had discovered a constant disposition to assist his Majesty's Enemies, and to distress his Subjects. That they had not only furnished the Enemy with Provisions and Ammunition but had refused to supply the Inhabitants, or Govern=ment with Provisions, and when they did Sup=ply, they have exacted three times the Price for which they were sold at other Markets. That they had been indolent and idle on [Up and Down] their Lands, had neglected Husbandry, and the Cultivation of the Soil, and had been of no use to the Province, either in Husbandry, Trade or Fishery, but had been rather an obstruction to the Kings Intentions in the Settlement.

They were then asked whether they could mention a single Instance of Service to the Government. To which they were incapable of making any Reply.

Upon reading this Paragraph,

"It seems that Your Excellency is doubt=
"=ful of the Sincerity of those who have
"promised Fidelity, That they had been

"so far from breaking their Oath, that
"they had kept it in spight of terri-
"fying Menaces from another Power"

They were asked what gave them Occasion to suppose that the Government was doubtful of their Sincerity? and were told that it argued a Consciousness in them of insincerity and want [p443] of Attachment / to the Interests of His Majesty and his Government That as to taking their Arms, they had often urged that the Indians would annoy them if they did not assist them, and that by taking their Arms by Act of Government it was put out of the Power of the Indians to threaten or force them to their Assistance. That they had assisted the Kings Enemies, and appeared too ready to join with another Power, contrary to the Allegiance they were bound by their Oath to yield to His Majesty.

In answer to this Paragraph,

"We are now in the same disposition, the
"purest and sincerest, to prove in every circumstance
"Fidelity to His Majesty, in the same manner as
"we have done, Provided that His Majesty will
"leave us the same Liberties which he has grant-
"ed us"

They were told that it was hoped they

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would hereafter give Proofs of more sincere and pure dispositions of Mind, in the practice of Fidelity to His Majesty, and that they would forbear to Act in the manner they have done, in obstructing the Settlement of the Province, by assisting the Indians and French to the distress and Annoyance of many of His Majesty's Subjects, and to the Loss of the Lives of several of the English Inhabitants. That it was not the Language of British Subjects to Talk of Terms with the Known, to Capitulate about their Fidelity and Allegiance and that it was Insolent to insert a Proviso, that they would prove their Fidelity Provided that His Majesty would give them Liberties. All His Majesty's Subjects are protected in the Enjoyment of every Liberty while they continue Loyal and faithful to the Crown, and when they become false and disloyal they forfeit that Protection.

That they in particular, tho' they had acted so insincerely on every Opportunity, had been left in the full Enjoyment of their Religion, Liberty and Properties, with an Indulgence beyond what would have been allowed to any British Subject who could presume, as they have done, to join in the Measures of another Power.

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They were told in answer to the Paragraph where,

"They desire their Canoes for carrying
"their Provisions from one River to an=
"=other and for their Fishery"

That they wanted their Canoes for carrying Provisions to the Enemy, and not for their own use or the Fishery, That by a Law of this Province, All Persons are restrained from carrying Provisions from one Port to another, and every Vessel, Canoe or Bark found with Provisions is forfeited, and a Penalty is inflicted on the Owners

They were also told in Answer to the fol:=lowing Paragraph,

[p 005 p.19]

"They Petition for their Guns / as part
of their Goods, that they may be
restored to defend their Cattle from
the Wild Beasts, and to preserve them=
=selves and their Children, That since
the Indians have quitted their Quarters,
the Wild Beasts are greatly increased,

That Guns are no part of their Goods, as they have no Right to keep Arms. By the Laws of England, All Roman Catholicks are restrained from having Arms, and they are Subject to Penalties if Arms are found in their Houses,

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that upon the Order from Capt. Murray many of the Inhabitants voluntarily brought in their Arms, and none of them pretended that they wanted them for defence of their battle against Wild Beasts, and that the Wild Beasts had not encreased since their Arms were surrendered. That they had some secret Inducement at that Time, for presuming to demand their Arms as part of their Goods and their Right and that they had flattered themselves of being supported in their Insolence to the Government, on a Report that some french Ships of War were in the Bay of Fundy. That this daring Attempt plainly discovered the falsehood of their Professions of Fidelity to the King, and their readiness has been visible upon every Intimation of Force or Assistance from France, to insult His Majesty's Government, and to join with his Enemies, contrary to their Oath of Fidelity. [p 446 p 90]

Upon reading this Paragraph,

"Besides the Arms we carry are a
"feeble Surety for our Fidelity. It is
"not the Gun that an Inhabitant
"possesses which will lead him to
"Revolt, nor the depriving him of
"that Gun that will make him more

"faithful, but his Conscience alone
"ought to engage him to maintain
"his Oath"

[p 117 Ends p.213] They were asked what Excuse they could make for their Presumption in this Paragraph, and treating the Government with such Indignity and Contempt as to expound to them the Nature of Fidelity and to prescribe what would be the Security proper to be relied on by the Government for their Sincerity. That their Consciences ought indeed to engage them to Fidelity from their Oath of Allegiance to the King, and that if they were sincere in their Duty to the Crown, they would not be so anxious for their Arms, when it was the pleasure of the Kings Government to demand them for His Majesty's Service.

They were then informed that a very fair Opportunity now presented itself to them to manifest the reality of their Obedience to the Government by immediately taking the Oath of Allegiance in the Common Form before the Council. Their Reply to this Proposal was, That they were not come prepared to resolve the [p 118 p.223] Council/on that Head. They were then told that they very well knew for these six Years past, the same thing had been often proposed

to them and had been as often waded under various frivolous pretences, that they had often been informed that sometime or other it would be required of them and must be done, and that the Council did not doubt but they knew the Sentiments of the Inhabitants in gen-
-eral, and had fully considered and determined this point with regard to themselves before now, as they had been already indulged with six Years to form a Resolution thereon. They then desired they might return home and Consult the Body of the People upon this Subject, as they could not do otherwise than the gen-
-erality of the Inhabitants should determine, for that they were desirous of either refusing or accepting the Oath in a Body, and could not possibly determine till they knew the Sentiments
/ of their Constituents. Upon this so extraordin- [Lib. 449 p. 20]
-ary a Reply they were informed they would not be permitted to return for any such purpose, but that it was expected from them to declare on the Spot for their own particulars, as they might very well be expected to do, after hav-
-ing had so long a Time to consider upon that point. They then desired leave to retire to consult among themselves, which they were permitted

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to do, when after near an hours Recess, they returned with the same Answer, That they could not consent to Take the Oath as prescribed, without consulting the general Body, but that they were ready to Take it as they had done before. To which they were answered, That His Majesty had disapproved of the manner of their Taking the Oath before, That it was not consistent with his Honour to make any Con=ditions, nor could the Council accept their Taking the Oath in any other way than as all other [p 450] p 22 His Majesty's Subjects were oblig'd by Law/ to do when called upon, and that it was now ex=pected they should do so, which they still declining, they were allowed Till the next Morn=ing at Ten of the Clock to come to a Re=solution. To which Time the Council then adjourned.

At

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At a Council holden at the Governor's [p.451 p.25]
House in Halifax on Fryday the 4th July 1775.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj. Green
Jno. Collier
Willm. Botterell
Jonn. Belcher
} Counc.rs

The Council being met according to Ad:=journment, the french Deputies who were Yesterday ordered to Attend the Council were brought in, and, upon being asked what Resolution they were come to in regard to the Oath, They de:=clared they could not consent to Take the Oath in the Form required without consulting the Body. They were then informed that as they had now for their own particulars, refused to Take the Oath as directed by Law, and thereby suf:=ficiently evinced the Sincerity of their Inclination [p.452 p.26]
towards the Government, The Council could no longer look on them as Subjects to His Brittan:=ick Majesty, but as Subjects to the King of France, and as such they must hereafter be treated. And they were ordered to withdraw.

The Council after Consideration, were of

Opinion, That directions should be given to Bap-
=tain Murray to order the french Inhabitants forth-
=with to choose and send to Halifax, new Dep-
=uties with the general Resolution of the said
Inhabitants in regard to Taking the Oath, and
that none of them should for the future be
admitted to Take it after having once refused
so to do, but that effectual Measures ought to
be Taken to remove all such Recusants out of
the Province.

[4 MSS p 27] The Deputies were then called in again and having been informed of this Resolution / and finding they could no longer avail themselves of the Disposition of the Government to engage them to a dutiful behaviour by Lenity and Persuasion, Offer-
=ed to Take the Oath, but were informed that as there was no reason to hope their proposed Compli-
=ance proceeded from an honest Mind, and could be esteemed only the Effect of Compulsion and Force, and is contrary to a Clause in an Act of Parliament, 1 Geo: 2. C. 13, whereby Persons who have once refused to Take the Oaths cannot be afterwards permitted to Take them, but are considered as Popish Recusants; Therefore they would not now be indulged with such Permission. And they were thereupon Ordered into Confinement.

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[p.464 p.20]

At a Council holden at Governors House in Halifax on Monday the 14th. July 1755.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj. Green
Jno. Collier
Will.m Cotterell
Jon.a Belcher
} bound.ts

The Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Council that he was instructed by His Majesty to Consult the Commander in Chief of the Fleet upon any Emergency, that might concern the Security of the Province, and that he intended to send the following Letter to Vice Admiral Boscawen and Rear Admiral Mostyn

"Sir,

"His Majestys Council being appointed to [p.465 p.29]
" meet at my House to/Morrow at Eleven o' Clock
" in the forenoon to consider what Steps it may
" be proper to Take for the Security of the Pro-
" vince against any Attempt that may be made
" to annoy us from Canada or Louisbourg in case
" of a Rupture, or any violent Measures the French
" may Take by way of resenting the Check that
" has lately been given to their Encroachments."

"I am to acquaint You that it is both
"agreable to the Instructions I have received from
"His Majesty, and at the earnest Request of His
"Council for this Province, that I beg the Hon-
"-our of your Company and Assistance at our
"Consultation."

Signed

"Chas. Laurence."

"Halifax 14th July 1755."

"Vice Admiral Boscawen"

A Letter of the same Tenor and Dat
to Rear Admiral Mostyn.

[p. 45b. p. 50]

/The Council returned His Excellency Thanks
and were very desirous that the Admirals might
be Consulted.

At

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At a Council holden at the Governor's House [p. 257 p. 21] in Halifax on Tuesday the 15th. July 1755.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj. Green
Jno. Collier
Willm. Cotterell
Jonn. Belcher
} Council.

The Honble Vice Admiral Boscawen and Rear Admiral Mostyn being also Present in consequence of the Lieutenant Governor's Letter.

The Lieutenant Governor laid before the Admirals the late Proceedings of the Council in regard to the French Inhabitants, and desired their Opinion and Advice thereon.

Both the said Admirals approved of the said Proceedings, and gave it as their Opinion That it was now the [p. 56. p. 22] properest Time to oblige the said Inhabitants to Take the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty or to quit the Country.

The Lieutenant Governor then communicated to the Council, a Letter by him received from Capt. Rous, informing him that the French at the River St. Johns had, upon his appearance with His Majesty's Ships under his Command,

before the Fort there, Retreated therefrom, after having first rendred the Cannon useless, and destroyed by Fire, all the Wood work thereof &c., and desired the Opinion of the Council in regard to the most proper and necessary Measures to be immediately taken, in order to prevent the French from availing themselves any further of their late Possession thereof, and of Securing the said Territory and the Indian Inhabitants thereof to Its Majesty's Obedience Upon which the Council [illegible] p. 559 p. 52] were of Opinion that less Inconvenience would be occasioned by suffering the said Fort to remain on its present Condition during the present Circumstances of the Colony, than by undertaking immediately to repair and Garrison the same.

The Council then took into Consideration the Number and State of the Troops in this Province, the Impossibility of Completing the intended Augmentation at present, and the Number of French Troops that had got into Louisbourg and the River of Canada, in the Ships that had escaped Admiral Boscawen's Fleet.

And then the Question was proposed whether it would not be absolutely necessary for the Good of His Majesty's Service, and the Security of this His Province, to retain in pay the Two Thousand

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New England Troops now under the Command of Lieutenant Colonel Monckton on the Isthmus of Chagre etō. P. 260 f. 303

It was unanimously the Opinion of His Majestys Council and all present that they should be retained at least untill the Augmentation was compleated, or further Orders should be received from England, and it was Resolved that the Transports should be immediatily discharged to avoid any unnecessary Expence.

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[p 861 p 35]

At a Council holden at the Governor's House in Halifax on Tryday the 25th July 1755.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj. Green
Jno. Collier
Willm. Cotterell } Council
Jno. Rous
Jonn. Belcher

The Honble Vice Admiral Boscawen and Rear Admiral Mostyn being also Present.

The Lieutenant Governor laid before the Council the following Memorial which he had received from the french Inhabitants of Annapolis River.

[p 862 p 36]

"A Son Excellence l'honorable Charles Law:
"=rence Ecuyer Lieutenant Gouverneur et Com:
"=mandant en Chef de la Province de la
"Nouvelle Ecosse pour Sa Majesté Britanique
"et Colonel d'un de ses Regiments d'In:
"=fanterie &c. &c. &c.

"Monseigneur,

"Aussitot que nous avons recus les Ordres
"de Votre Excellence datez du 12me Jour de Juillet
"1755, nous nous sommes assemblé le Dimanche 13.

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"Jour du present Mois pour faire la Lecture a
"tous les Habitans de vos Ordres, Voulant toujours
"nous tenir nous une fidelle Obeissance; nous
"avons deliberéz tous en Generale d'un Bonsentément
"unanime de porter tous nos Armes a feux a
"Monsieur Hanfield notre tres digne Commandant
"quoique nous n'ayons jamais eu la Volontez de
"nous en servir contre le Gouvernement de Sa
"Majesté, Ce qui fait que nous n'avons aucuns
"Reproches a nous faire a ce Sujet [n y dans [B 460. p. 57]
"toute la Fidelité que nous devons au Gouverne-
"=ment de Sa Majesté, Par Monseigneur nous
"pouvons bien assurer Votre Excellence que plusieurs
"d'entre nous se sont risqué la Vie pour donner
"Connoissance au Gouvernement de l'ennemis, et
"aussi lors qu'il a etéz necessaire de Travailler
"pour l'entretien du Fort d' Annapolis et autre
"Travaille necessaire au Gouvernement, nous nous y
"avons porter de tout notre Coeur, et nous sommes
"pret a continuer avec la meme Fidelité; et aussi
"nous avons fait l'election des Trentes hommes pour
"aller a Halifax auxquels nous recommandons bien
"de ne rien dire ou faire qui soit contraire
"au Consulle de Sa Majesté, mais nous leurs
"enjoignons de ne contracter aucuns nouveaux
"Serment, nous sommes Resolus et en volontéz de

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"nous en tenir a celuy que nous avons donnez
" et auxquels nous avons etés fidelles autant que
" les Circonstances l'ont demander, Car les Ennemis
[p 46a p.30] " de Sa Majesté' nous ont sollicité a prendre/les Armes
" contre le Gouvernement, mais nous n'avons eu garde
" de le faire".

Signed by Two hundred and
Seven of the Inhabitants.

The Lieutenant Governor also acquainted the Council that, in Consequence of the Order of Coun-cil of the 6th Inst. the said Inhabitants had sent down Deputies with their Answer in regard to their Taking the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty, and that they were now waiting without.

The said Deputies were then ordered to be called in, and being asked what they had to say. They declared that they appeared in behalf of themselves and all the other Inhabitants of Annapolis River, That they could not Take any other Oath than what they had formerly Taken
[p 46b. p.29] which was with a Reserve that/they should not be obliged to Take up Arms, and that if it was the Kings Intentions to force them to quit their Lands, they hoped that they should be allowed a convenient Time for their Departure.

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The Council then asked them several Questions concerning the Allegiance they so much boasted of in their Memorial, and the Intelligence which they say they have given the Government, of which they were desired to mention a single Instance whereby any Advantage had accrued to the Govern= =ment, but this they were unable to do; on the contrary it was made very evident to them that they have always omitted to give timely Intelligence when they had it in their Power, and might have saved the Lives of many of His Majesty's Subjects, but that they had always secretly aided the Indians, and many of them had even ap= =peared openly in Arms against His Majesty. They were then told that they must [now Resolved] =solve either to Take the Oath without any Reserve or else to quit their Lands, for that Affairs were now at such a Crisis in America that no delay could be admitted, That the French had obliged us to Take up Arms in our Defence against their Encroachments, and it was unknown what Steps they might Take fur= =ther, for which reason, if they (the Inhabitants) would not become Subjects to all Intents and Purposes, they could not be suffered to remain in the Country. Upon which they said they were

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determined, One and All, rather to quit their Lands than to Take any other Oath than what they had done before. The Council then told them that they ought very seriously to Consider the Consequences of their Refusal That if they once refused the Oath they would never after be permitted to Take it. but would irrefragably loose their Possessions; / That the Council were unwilling to hurry them into a Determination upon an Affair of so much Consequence to them, and therefore they should be allowed till next Monday at Ten of the Clock in the forenoon to reconsider the Matter and form their Resolution: when their final Answer would be expected. And the Council then adjourned to that Time.

[p 664 p. 611]

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[B.A.H.C. p. 427]

At a Council holden at the Governor's House in Halifax on Monday the 28th July 1755.

Present

The Lieutenant Governor

Benj Green
Jno Collier
Willm Cotterell } Council.
Jno Rous
Jonn Belcher

The Hon ble Vice Admiral Boscawen and Rear Admiral Mostyn being also Present.

The Lieutenant Governor acquainted the Council that the Deputies from Pisiquid, Menis and the River aux Canards, were arrived and had delivered the following Memorials.

"A l' honorable Charles Lawrence Preaident
"du Conseil du Roy, Commandant en Chef [p. 469 p. 43.]
"de la Nouvelle Ecosse, Lieutenant Gouverneur
"d' Annapolis Royal, Lieutenant Colonel d'un
"Regiment d' Infanterie."

"Monsieur,

"Les Habitans de nos Departements ayant été
"informé par Monsieur Murray Commandant le Fort
"Edward a Pisiquit, que nous les Habitans de nos

"Departements ayant a paroitre quelque hommes devant
"Monsieur le Gouverneur a Halifax pour repondre a la
"demande a nous faite en vertus d'un Serment que
"l'on nous assure que Son Honneur Exige de nous,
"les Habitans de nos Departements en general prenne
"la Liberté de representé qu'apres avoir pretté Serment
"de fidelité a Sa Majesté Britanique avec toutes les
"Circonstances et les Reserve pour vente a nous accordés
"au Nom du Roy par Monsieur Richard Phillips
[illegible] Commandant en Chef dans la ditte Province laquelle
"nous avons observé notre fidelité d'autant plus qu'ils
"nous a été possible depuis un nombre d'années en
"Jouissant paisiblement de nos droits Suivant la
"Teneur de notre Serment en toute sa Teneur et
"reserve, et nous ayant toujours appuié sur notre
"Serment de fidelité tant pour sa Teneur que pour
"l'observation, et nous sommes resous tous de bon
"Consentement et de voy de ne prendre aucun autre
"Serment, nous avons pretés le Serment de fidelité
"de bonne foy, nous sommes tres bontemps et
"satisfaire, Nous esperons Monsieur que vous aurés la
"bonté d'ecouté nos Justes raisons et en Consequence
"Supplie tous d'une Voy unanime son Honneur
"d'avoir la bonté de delivré nos Gens qui sont tenu
"a Halifax depuis quelque Temps en ne pouvant meme
"scavoir leur Situation qui nous paroit deplorable, Nous

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"avons toute Confiance Monsieur que Son honneur
"aura bontés pour nous de/nous accordé les graces [p 471 p. 45]
"que nous avons l'honneur de vous demandé tres
"humblement, et nous prierons pour la Conservation
"de Son honneur."

"Pisiquit 22 Juillet 1765."

Signed by One hundred and Three
of the said Inhabitants of Pisiquid

"De la Part des Habitans des Mines et la Riviere
"aux Canards et des Lieux qui en dependent."

"A Son Excellence Charles Lawrence Ecuyer
"Gouverneur Generale et Commandant en Chef
"la Province de la Nouvelle Ecosse ou l'
"Acadie et Colonel d'un Regiment au Service
"de Sa Majesté dans la ditte Province."

"D'autant qu'il s'est repandue un Bruit
"parmis nous les Habitans francois/de cette Province, [p 472 p. 46]
"que Son Excellence le Gouverneur exige de nous
"un Serment d'Obeissance conforme en quelque
"facon a celuy des Sujets Naturels de Sa Majesté
"le Roy George Second, et qu'en consequence nous
"avons une Certitude Moralle que plusieurs de nos
"Habitans sont retenue et genée a Halifax pour
"ce Sujet."

"Si les Intentions de Son Excellence sont cette

"qu'icy dessus" envers nous, Nous prenons la
"liberté de represenié a Son Excellence tous en
"generalle, et au Nom de tous les Habitans,
"que nous et nos Peres ayant pris pour eux et
"pour nous un Serment de fidelité que nous a
"eté approuvé plusieurs fois au Nom du Roi, et
"sous les Privileges duquel nous avons demeuré fidelle
"et Soumis, et protegé par Sa Majesté le Roy
"Britanique, Suivant les Lettres et Proclamation de
"Son Excellence Monseigneur le Gouverneur Shirley,
4 mots
nuls/ En datte du 16. Septembre 1746, et du 21. Octobre
"1747, Nous ne commettrons jamais l'inconstance de
"prendre un Serment qui change tant soit peut
"les Conditions et les privileges dans lesquels nos
"Souverains et nos Peres nous ont placé par le passé".

"Et comme nous pençons bien que le Roi
"notre Maitre n'aimes et ne protége que des
"Sujets constents fidelle et franc, et que ce n'est
"qu'en vertu de sa bonté et de la fidelité que
"nous avons gardés envers Sa Majesté qu'elle nous
"a accordé et continue l'entiere possession de nos
"bien et l'exercice libre et publique de la Re-
"ligion Romaine."

"Ainsi nous voulons continué dans tous ce
"qui sera dans notre pouvoir a etre fidelle et
"soumis ainsi qu'il nous a eté accordé par Son

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Excellence Monseigneur Richard Phillips..

La Charité pour nos Habitans detenus et l'innocence que nous croyons en eux, nous oblige a supplier tres humblement Son Excellence a [p 474 l. 10] se laisser touché de leurs Miserres et leur donner la liberté que nous demandons pour eux avec toute la Soumission possible et le Respect le plus profond.

Signed by Two hundred and Three of the said Inhabitants of Menis and the River aux Canards.

The said Deputies were then called in, and peremptorily refused to Take the Oath of Allegiance to His Majesty.

The Deputies of Annapolis also appeared and refused the Oath. Whereupon they were all ordered into Confinement.

As it had been before determined to send all the french Inhabitants out of the Province if they refused to Take the Oaths, nothing now [p 475. p 493] remained to be considered but what Measures should be taken to send them away, and where they should be sent to.

After mature Consideration it was unanimously agreed That, to prevent as much as possible their Attempting to return and molest the Settlers that may be Set down on their Lands, it would be most proper to send them to be distributed amongst the several Colonies on the Continent, and that a sufficient number of Vessels should be hired with all possible Expedition for that purpose.

This and the foregoing Sheets (being Forty nine Pages) Contain a true Copy of the Proceedings of His Majesty's Council of the Province of Nova Scotia, in regard to sending the French Inhabitants out of the said Province. Taken from the Council Records by

Jno Duport
Sec: Conc:

[p. 170] Endorsed Copy of Minutes of / the Council at Halifax / in Lt Govr Lawrence's / Letter of. Octr 18th: 1755.

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[p 479]

Halifax 11th August 1755.

Sir

The success that has attended his Majestys Arms in driving the French from the Encroach=ments they had made in this Province furnished me with a favorable Opportunity of reducing the French Inhabitants of this Colony to a proper obedience to his Majestys Government or forcing them to quit the bountry. These Inhabitants were permitted to remain in quiet Possession of their Lands upon condition they should take the Oath of Allegiance to the King within One Year after the Treaty of Uttrecht by which this Pro=vence was ceded to Great Britain. with this Condition they have ever refused to comply without [p. 480] having at the same time from the Governor an assurance in writing that they should not be called upon to bear Arms in the defence of the Province and with this General Phillips did comply of which step his Majesty has disapproved and the Inhabitants pretending therefrom to be in a state of Neutrality between his Majesty & his Enemies have continually furnished the French and Indians with Intelligence, Quarters, Provisions & As=sistance in annoying the Government and while one part have abetted the French Encroachments

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by their Treachery the Other have countenanced
them by Open Rebellion, and three Hundred of
[p 691] them were actually found in Arms / in the French
fort at Beausejour when it surrendered.

Notwithstanding all their former bad be-
=haviour, as his Majesty was pleased to allow
me to extend still further his Royal Grace to
such as would return to their Duty, I offered
such of them as had not been openly in
Arms against us, a continuance of the possession
of their Lands, if they would take the Oath of
Allegiance unqualified with any Reservation whatsoever,
but this they have most audaciously as well as
unanimously refused, and if they wou'd presume to
do this when there is a large Fleet of Ships
of War in the Harbour and a considerable Land
[p 692] force in the Province / what might not we expect
from them when the approaching Winter deprives
us of the former, and when the Troops which
are only hired from New England occasionally and
for a small time have returned home.

As by this behaviour the Inhabitants have
forfeited all title to their Lands and any further
favour from the Government, I called together his
Majesty's Council, at which the Honble Vice Admiral
Boscawen + Rear Admiral Mostyn assisted to consider

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by what means we cou'd with the greatest Se-
curity & effect rid Ourselves of a set of People
who would forever have been an Obstruction to
the intention of Settling this Colony and that [p.100]
it was now from their / refusal of the Oath
absolutely incumbent upon his to remove.

As their numbers amount to near Seven
thousand Persons the driving them off with leave
to go whither they pleased wou'd have doubtless
strengthned Canada with so Considerable a Number
of Inhabitants and as they have no cleared Land
to give them at present, such as are able to
bear Arms must have been immediately employ-
ed in annoying this and the Neighbouring Colonies.
To prevent such an inconvenience it was Judged
a necessary and the only Practicable measure to
divide them among the Colonies, where they may
be of some use as most of them are healthy
strong People; / and as they cannot easily collect [p.101]
themselves together again, it will be out of their
power to do any mischief and they may become
profitable, and it is possible, in time faithfull Subjects.

As this step was indispensably necessary to
the security of this Colony whose Preservation from
french Encroachments the prosperity of North America
is esteemed in a great Measure dependent, I have

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not the least reason to doubt of your Excellencys
Concurrence and that you will receive the Inhabit:
=ants I now send and dispose of them in such
manner as may best answer our design in pre:
=venting their reunion.

[Page] / As the Vessels employed on this Service
are upon Monthly hire I beg the favour of you
to expedite as much as possible their discharge and
that they may be furnished with a Certificate of
the time thereof agreable to the form enclosed.-

[Page] Endorsed Copy of a Letter to the / Governor on
the Continent / in relation to the / receiving the French /
Inhabitants of Nova Scotia / Dated 11th August 1755 /
in Lt Govr Lawrences / Letter of Oct. 18th 1755. /
Secry of State

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[p.566]

Halifax 10th Novemr 1765.

Sir,

I embrace the opportunity that offers, of a Vessel just getting under sail for Ireland; to acquaint you that late last night arrived Captain Innes in His Majesties Sloop Otter, by whom I had the honour to receive your several Dispatches, dated in July & August last. As this Conveyance is so Sudden, it is impossible I can make such full answers to them, as my Duty points out to me: but I hope to be fully prepared for Captain Innes's return, which I understand from the Commander of the Squadron is to be in about Ten Days. In the interim I beg leave to assure you Sir I shall [p.567] pay the closest attention & the most exact obedience to every order I have now the honour to receive.

The Bills for Ten Thousand pounds, ordered by the Lords Justices to be Transmitted hither, for the reparation of His Majesties Forts upon the Isthmus of Chignecto, came to hand three weeks ago, & were immediatly accepted by Mr Saul, who is Agent here for Mr Alderman Baker, and the necessary works and reparations at those ports, are now carrying on, with all imaginable Dispatch & Oeconomy.

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Since I had the honor of writing to you by Admiral Boscawen, nothing material has occurred, more than that I have been informed, the French have marched a considerable Body of peo-
[p 001] ple towards the Isthmus of Chignecto; should this Intelligence be better founded than I have reason to think it, Yet I flatter my self the Measures we have taken, will be very Effectual for the Security both of that important Post, this Place and every other interiour part of the Province for the ensuing Winter.

I shall be particularly careful in forwarding by the first safe Conveyance to Boston, the several Packets that I received from Capt Innes for the Governors on the Continent.

I beg you will believe me to be, with the most unfeigned Respect & Defference,

Sir,

Your most obliged and most
obedient humble
Servant

Tha^{s} Lawrence]

The Rt Honble Sir Thos. Robinson—

[p 002] Endorsed Halifax 10th Novr 1755 / Lt Govr Lawrence /
R 31 Decr

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91 50
05 16.

Sir /

I recd your several Letters of the 25th & 26th Octobr and 4th Novr by Sr John St. Clair, and also 2 Letters of the 23d January about the Increase of the Troops and Copies of the Mutiny Bill, as also Your favour of the 26 Apr by Admiral Boscawen, all which Orders I shall chear= fully obey - I delay'd acknowledging the former Letters having nothing material to write, and have been above 4 Months in different parts of the Province to observe our Sea Coasts and West= ern Frontier in order to put them in a State of Defense, as far as this poor Province can con= tribute at this Critical Juncture, until I was obliged to return Express upon Account of our unfortunate Defeat and Death of Genral Braddock. I gave Directions to erect a Battery and Bar= rack for the Defence of the Harbour at Ocra= cock, which is now going on, as We have Reason to expect an Immediate War; and as we have no Artillery or Military Stores, we shall have an immediate Occasion for Artillery and Bul= lets and Stores in Proportion for this, and John= ston Fort at Cape Fear River below Brunswick, there will be Twelve 12 pounders and 8 eighteen

pounders wanted for the Battery at Ocacock; and
14 eighteen pounders, and 16 nine pounders, with
30 Swivel and as many Musquetoons for Fort John-
-ston; with Bullets and Stores in Proportion; As
we have now laid on a powder Duty we hope
in some time to have powder brought in, or
bought with it. the Vessels having not been
'till lately apprized of the Duty, have not yet
brought any in kind; and therefore if his Ma-
-jesty would give 20 Barrils of Gunpowder for
present Use, it may be of great Service, as
there is none at present in the Colony.— I
shall when proper apply to Admiral Boscawen
in case any privateers or Ships of force appear,
or shelter near Cape Lookout Harbour on this
Coast, which if his Majesty could now be at
the Expence, is absolutely necessary to be fortified
for the Safety of all the Northern Colonies, and
of the British and Colony Trade, of which I
wrote fully to the Lords Commissioners of Trade;
before I returned from the Frontier I gave Direc-
-tions to put the frontier in the best State of
Defence against the Indian Incursions, by having
100 select Men in Readiness to joyn our Frontier
Company— and have summoned a Council to meet
to consider further of our present Danger, and shall

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use my best Endeavours to get the Assembly who meet the Twenty fourth September, to exert themselves to the utmost to put a speedy End to the French Schemes, [p.506] by confining them to their own Limits, and if there shou'd be a War, to expel them from this Continent, without which we can never be safe and easy, if it be agreable at present to His Majesties Views.

I am with great Respect

Sir

Your most obedient and

most humble Servant

[autograph] Arthur Dobbs

November 25th Augt 1755

To Sir Thos Robinson

[p.505]

Endorsed No. Carolina Augt. 25th 1755. / Govr. Dobbs /

Rx Octr 28th

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Norwalk 1st August 1755 [p 354]

Sir,

Your Letters of the 31st December 23d January with the Duplicate, printed Copies of the Military Act and Articles of War and your Letter of the 16th April I have received and beg leave to acquaint you that as the Colony have a most greatful Sense of his Majesty's tender regard for his British Colonies and the Welfare and Security of his Subjects in North America which he has had the goodness by your repeated Letters to signify to us so the Colony from their strong Attachment to and Zeal for his Majesty's Sacred Person and Government have endeavoured in every particular to exert themselves for the Defence of his Majesty's just Rights and Dominions against and for removing the Encroachments of the French in these Parts. The Government not only encouraged raising Men to fill up the Kings Regiments under the respective Commands of Governor Shirley and Sir Willm Pepperell in pursuance of his Majestys Pleasure signifyd by your Letter of the 26th October last. And the Regiments employed at Nova Scotia, but also being greatly spirited and Engaged in repelling the Common Danger, this Colony in Conjunction with the Governments of the Massachusets

Bay New York New Hampshire and Rhode Island, undertook to raise better than four Thousand Men for the Defence and Protection of his Majestys Terri: tories at Crown Point and on the Iroquois Lake and for removing the Encroachments made there; for this Service the Government hath raised one Thousand effective Men Officers included, armed and provided for them and Subsist them in the Serv: ice wherein they are now employed, the Assembly have also made provision for raising five hun: dred more to strengthen that Expedition if there shall appear a Necessity of it which I expect will be the case and the Men will soon be raised. I beg leave here to observe that I conceive this Colony herein have advanced beyond an Equal and just proportion tho' I Do not mention this to lessen the Service of the other Governments or any of them all of which appear well spirited and Engaged on this Occasion but rather * to [p.36] shew that his Majestys regard for the Welfare and Security of his Subjects in these parts which he has been graciously pleased to give us such Proofs of, and our Zeal to promote his Service therein hath excited a Spirit of Emulation in the People here to excel in the Service of their King and Country.

I beg leave further to acquaint you that having the Success of this Enterprize so much at Heart, and fearing the Government of New York might fail raiseing the Number proposed for them to raise which was but Eight hundred, that Government upon application from that permitted three hundred Men to be raised in this Colony on the Pay and Encouragement of that for this Service, all these Levies have Drawn from us near two Thousand of our Inhabitants (beside the five hundred not yet raised) to the Detriment of our Husbandry whereon the Colony hath its principal Dependance.

The Colony tho' before considerably in Debt failed not to undertake with Vigour and Resolution to perform these Services and are now greatly spirited in the Affair by which Means we have been under necessity to make use of the Credit of the Government and thereby a heavy Burden of Debt is brought and likely to be increased upon the Inhabitants and what adds to our Difficulties in these Services is the want of a Supply of good Arms there being no Public Store of that Kind in the Colony, and those which belong to Private Persons mostly poor unraised and unfit for an Expedition and such difficult to be obtained for the

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use of such as tho' (not) able Bodied Effective Men
are unprovided and unable to provide for them=
=selves: the Government therefore have thought
proper under their Difficult Circumstances and
that they may be better able to serve his Ma=
=jesty on such Emergencies to make their humble
Petition to his Majesty for his Royal Favour in
granting us relief in this particular and accordingly
=ly by their Desire I have inclosed their Address
which I beg leave to request you to lay before
the King and to allow us to hope for your
kind Offices in rendring it acceptable and ef=
=fectual, you will be pleased to consider this Col=
=ony has never been expensive to the known but
hath at its own Expence defended itself and
Largely contributed to the Defence of the Neigh=
=bouring Governments for more than a Century past
[p 361] and the last Year / were at considerable Expence
in garrisoning and defending some of the Frontier
Towns of the Massechusets and the same Service
we still continue, we humbly hope our Services
will be graciously accepted by his Majesty and
as I perswade myself the Officers and Sold=
=diers who are or shall be engaged in these
Sources will behave with Honour so I would
beg leave most humbly to recommend them to

his Majesty's Favour.

I am

Sir

with the most profound
respect and Esteem your
most humble and
most Obedient
Servant -

[answered] Thos Fitch]

The Right Honourable Sr. Thos Robinson one
of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Endorsed 1st August 1755 / Mr. Fitch / R. Oct. 28th [b.612]

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[p. 403]

The humble Address of the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut in New England in America.

To the Kings most excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign,

We your Majestys most dutiful and loyal Subjects the Governor and Company of your Colony of Connecticut Beg leave thankfully to acknowledge your goodness in taking into your Royal consideration the State of Affairs in North America and in ordering such vigorous and effectual Measures for the Defence of your Just Rights and Dominions; Nothing can more clearly demonstrate your Majestys Paternal concern and regard for the Security and Welfare of your American Colonies than your Benevolent Disposition for the good of your Subjects in these Parts and your firm Resolution to maintain your Just Rights against the Encroachments of the French and we Beg leave to assure your Majesty that as we have chearfully exerted ourselves in a punctual Obedience to your commands signifyed to your several Governments on this Occasion, so we spirited with Principles of Loyalty and Obedience, shall do all in our Power for maintaining the Honour

Rights and Possessions of your Crown and for the Interest and Security of your Dominions in these Parts according as it shall be your Royal Pleasure to direct

[p 586] This Colony tho small being warmed with Zeal for your Majestys Service and spirited to contribute to the utmost of their Ability in repelling the common Danger have on their own Pay and subsistance raised one Thousand Men including Officers who are to be augmented to 1500: if there be necessity of it for dislodging the French from those Parts of your Majestys Territories at and near Crown Point; a spirit of true Loyalty and strong attachment to your Majesty and and of Emulation to excel in the Service of our King and Country is universal in the Colony, but may it please your Majesty the low State of the Government involved in Debt arisen by those Means the want of a proper Supply of good Arms, those among us being unused and few in Number and the Colony unable at present to purchase a sufficiency for our Souldery renders it difficult to perform that service they are Zealous for, that we may be able therefore more effectually as well as speedily to exert ourselves on any Emergency for the Defence of the Country,

Duty to your Majesty and Zeal for your Service constrain us to make our humble Address to our most Gracious Sovereign for Releife in this particular; And will your Majesty be pleased to permit us humbly to request your Majesty to grant to this Colony such a supply of Arms as in your Royal Bounty and Wisdom you shall think proper to bestow that we may be capacitated to act up to that Spirit which prompts your Subjects in this Colony to exert themselves in your Service beyond their present Ability.

May your Forces be Victorious and all Attempts and Designs formed against your Majesty and your Kingdoms and Dominions be defeated.

We are may it please your Majesty
Your Majestys most faithfull Loyal
And Obedient Subjects the Governor
and Company of the Colony of
Connecticut

[autograph] [Thos Fitch Govr.]

Connecticut 1st
August 1755

[p.306]

Endorsed The Address of the / Govr. + Company of / Connecticut / Rx Octr. 29th / - in Gov: Fitch's of / Augt. 1st. 1755.

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[p. 387]

Portsmouth September 17th 1755

Sir /

Upon General Johnson's first Application to me for a reinforcement To the Army under his Command, Destin'd to Crown point, I was very doubtfull whether I should succeed with the Assembly in obtaining any further Grant of men, but the defeat of the Late General Braddock, had so strongly opperated upon the minds of the Several Governments, that a most favourable turn in support of the Crown Point Expedition took place, and all the Governments interested in that Expedition except New York have come into more Extensive grants, Than could have been Conceived.—

The Assembly of my Government Have [p. 388] granted to pay and subsist three / Hundred men as a reinforcement to the Crown Point Expedition, and I have made Such progress in Levying the men, That In ten days, I shall have the whole in full March, in order to Joyn the Army.—

When the Forces of all the Governments Joyn the Army, General Johnson Will have upwards of ten thousand men, which from the best intelligences we can Obtain, will Exceed any Armament The power of Canada can raise, against us.

The fate of the Northern Colonies Depend on the success of General Johnson Against Crown Point, and Governor Shirley against Niagara. This had a happy Influence in the Counsels of the respective Governments, so vigorously to engage in the Present reinforcement—

If this Spirit had sooner prevail'd The Conquest of Crown Point would not Have been doubtfull at this day, and the Lives of many brave men saved, The Danger that threatens
[p 2nd] the Colonies of / Becomeing slaves of France, has at length Roused a spirit, and it appears to be almost universal, equal to the Antient Romans, Out of the three hundred men I have raised In this Province, not a man can be mark'd out, but substantial farmers and Freeholders, Who engage upon no Other principles to Secure freedom and happiness to their Posterity This Consideration only has moved them to undertake so hazzardous an Enterprize — I am With the greatest respect —

Sir

Your most faithfull Servant

[illegible] [B Wentworth]

The Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson

[p 3rd] Endorsed Portsmouth Sept 14th 1755 / Govr Wentworth / Rx 30. Octr

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[p 391]

Extract of a private Letter from Portsmouth in New Hampshire, dated Sept.r 17.th 1755.—

Ten Days before the Engagement Johnson wrote to the New England Governors for Reinforcements— Four Days after receiving the Letter, Connecticut sent 1500, and Massachusets 1500, — On the 17.th Sept.r They sent 2500. & New Hampshire 500. —

[p 392]

Endorsed Extract of a private / Letter from / Portsmouth / in New Hampshire / dated Sept.r 17.th 1755.

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Portsmouth September 19th 1755 [p.395]

Sir -

An hour after my letter of the 19th Instant was put on board this Ship the post Came in, and brought me the inclosed Printed Copy of General Johnson's letter From his Camp at Lake George, after a sharp engagement with Le Baron de Dieskau, the French General, the letter is so particular, that I shall not attempt to say any thing more on it, than that it is Thought, the loss on the Enemies Side is vastly greater than the General mentions, it being Wrote so soon after the Action, and he being himself wounded; That a fuller and more Perfect account is hereafter expected, it is likewise supposed that the French General had 1500 French and Indians, more than he himself gave an Account of, besides Reserves at different posts, which the Baron himself confesses; and it is my Opinion that by the [p.396] suddain and unexpected Attack the French made, They either had not provisions to subsist their Troops, or that They were sure of success otherwise they might have taken greater advantages In the Army's marching to Crown point, and with more security to themselves -

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It appears to me that had General Johnson been defeated, nothing could have stopt the progress of the French, Untill they had made themselves masters of the City of Albany, and this might Be another object the Baron had in view For attacking our Army at such a distance from Crown point—

I Likewise received by the post from Sir Charles Hardy Governor of New York Their Excellencies the Lords Justices Commands Signified to me in your letter Of the 19th of June. Expressly Commanding me, not to draw bills on the Paymaster General or any other person, nor to Issue Warrants for money, for discharging Any expences that have arisen to the Source in my Government, but to apply For such Sums of money to Major General Braddock or the Commander in chief of His Majesties Forces, which Commands I shall punctually Obey—

I am not acquainted with the Practise of the other Governments, nor In what manner their expences are discharged, for my own Conduct only I can Be answerable in those matters—

. For the Successfull Expedition Against Louisbourg I raised and Subsisted Seven hundred men, untill it was His Majesties pleasure to repay the

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Province Part of the Expences –

For the Intended Expedition Against Canada I raised and Subsisted Eight hundred men, The charges were Defrayed by the Province, untill it was Ths Majesties Pleasure likewise to repay Part of that Expence –

[p 290]

The Expedition Carrying on / Against Crown point demands 800 men Which are paid and subsisted by the Province] In Expectation that it may be Ths Majesties pleasure to relieve us under The Burthen of that Expence, which by the Length of the Service will fall Exceeding Heavy –

I am put to the utmost difficulty to subsist these Troops in the Crown Point Expedition, as the greater part Of the Expences of our Forces arise in the Government of New York, where Noth=ing but Silver, Gold or bills of Exchange on London will purchase What is needful for the subsistance of the troops, so that I am obliged to Pawn my own Credit, untill I have Oppor=tunity to purchase Silver or Gold –

I am / With the greatest Respect

Sir

Your most faithfull Servant

[autograph] [B Wentworth]

The Right Honourable / Sir Thomas Robinson –

LC 25-4 (9/53)

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To Henry Fox Esqr:—

I having on the 15th Instt: recd a Letter of 26th Sept from Govr Fitch of the Colony of Connecticutt in N. E. of which I thought it my Duty to send thee a Copy which is here inclosed, to demonstrate with what Readiness and Alacrity that Colony hath exerted itself, in raising and sending a Reinforcement of Men to Major Genl Johnson on the Expedition against Crown Point— &c.a

And Yesterday I recd a Letter from one of the Assembly of Pennsylvania of the 7th of Octr wherein he advises me in these Words Vizt. "The "Account of Genl Johnsons Progress must get to "Hand before this; we now daily expect to hear "of his Attack upon Crown Point, where it is "thought he will be likely to meet no small Oppo- "=sition, tho' his late Success may contribute to ren- "=der it less so,— And further the said Gentleman writes thus "We do not hear of any Disturbances "on our Frontiers from the Enemy and every Thing "hath been much more Pacific than we could have "expected; the Virginians and Marylanders, suffered "from the Indians, but nothing of that Kind, hath "happened in our Province—

The Originals of the above Letters I have

ready to Produce if there should be Occasion.

From—

Thy Friend—

Rich.d Partridge

Agent for the Colony of Connecticut

Masons Court in Brick Lane

Spittlefields Nov.r 18th 1755—

Endorsed Nov.r 18th 1755 | Mr Partridge, Agent | for Connecticut.

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[p.195]

Norwalk 26th September 1755.

in Connecticut

Sr —

Since my last of the 16 June to you I have received your Letters of the 24th May & 2d July last but am not yet furnished with the Several Matters relating to the Line between this Colony & the Province of the Massachusets, As our Minds have been & are Still engaged in Military Preparations, which engross almost all our Thoughts, as well here as in England: I hope nothing will be done to our Prejudice, but that the affairs of the Colonies will rest Safe untill we can attend to those parts of our Interest. I presume it will not be long before I Shall be able to Transmit you the Several Writings I before Signified you might expect to receive. As an Account of our Military Enterprizes may probably be acceptable, I Shall give a Short Relation of our Proceedings there: =in: In the Spring of the year when the Forces were raising in America by his Majesties Orders for the Defence of his Dominions, As we Under: =stood were to be employed for removing the en: =croachments of the French on the Ohio & at Nova Scotia, a Scheme was proposed for the New Eng. =land Governments & New York to undertake an

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Expedition for removing the French Encroachments at Crown Point, and on the Lake Champlain, & that the Massachusets should raise 1200, Connecti= cut 1000 New York 800, New Hampshire 600 & Rhode Island 400 Men for this Service. This Government immediately agreed to raise their thousand Men, tho' it was judged more than a just proportion, & to add 500 more if needed, & fearing New York would fail of the Number proposed for them, the Assembly consented to allow New York liberty to raise 300 in this Colony, which have been raised accordingly, we raised our thousand, Massa= chusets agreed to raise 1500, New Hampshire 500 & Rhode Island 400, but Some fell Short, however the Expedition went forward under the Command of William Johnson Esqr. living near the Mohawk Coun= try, who was appointed Commander in Chief, & Phineas Lyman Esqr. one of the Council of this Colony who was appointed Major General & Second Officer: The Army Proceeded to the great carrying Place on Hudsons River clearing the Roads to that place, which is near 60 Miles above Albany, where they built a Fort: while they were there, they recieved Intelligence of the Designs of the French to oppose them with a Force Superior to our Army thereupon acquainted the Governments concerned &

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requested strong Reinforcements, this Colony, on consideration of the Importance of the Service agreed to raise fifteen hundred more, which with five hundred then raising in consequence of a former Resolve, made 2000 Men for a Reinforcement, which were raised with Surprizing dispatch, & are Marched Sometime Since, the other Governments particularly Massachusets, added 2500 to the former Number, but New York whose Interest is more nearly affected add none. However the Army will probably Amount to near about 8000, the final Event we wait for. But I must acquaint you, that before the Recruits were Sent, even while raising the Army went forward from Hudsons River to Lake St. Sacrament, now called Lake George leaving a Number at the Fort, & Soon after their Arrival at the Lake, And before they had built a Fort, or Entrenched, the Enemy consisting of Regulars from Europe, Canadians, & 4 or 500 Indians, amounting in the whole to, two or three Thousand / The [p. 4963] Number tho' Some thing uncertain is supposed Superior to our's, come upon about 1000 of our Forces in the Woods, as they were Marching towards the Fort to relieve it in case of an Attack, there they having had Intelligence of the Enemys being near, our People were overpowered by Number fought

bravely on a retreat three or four Miles to the Camp, where being all Joined there was a very hot & constant fire, from about Eleven of the Clock on the 8th. of this Month, 'till four or five: Our Army Sustained their Posts, finally drove off & pursued the Enemy, & gained a compleat Victory. In this Battle, the Severest that has been in this Country; There was by the best Accounts, Seven or eight hundred, Some Say, about a thousand of the Enemy killed, Several taken Prisoners: Baron. Dieskau Major General & Commander in Chief of all y^e^ French Troops in America, is taken Prisoner & so wounded, its' prob. =able he will dye, if he be yet living. The Second General Officer, who was Commander at General Braddocks defeat was killed in this Engagement: on our Side it is Supposed, we had not but about a Hundred killed, Some wounded & Some missing, tho' the Accounts as yet, are not so par. =ticular as we may have, yet the loss is in a Small proportion to that of the other Side. I may have opportunity to give a more distinct Ac. =count, & hope to be able to give good News of the whole Enterprise, but the Event remains, & Time must open the Designs of Providence herein.

I wrote Some time Since to Sir Thomas

Robinson one of his Majesties Principal Secretaries of State, acquainting Him with this Affair, as far as it had then proceeded but it was before we had raised the additional Numbers, & before the Engagement; I expect the Assembly next Month will direct a further Represent.ⁿ to be made; I have also sent an address to the King to request the favour of Arms to be bestowed on the Colony. if that should Succeed; I conceive the Account of our raising such additional Numbers for his Majᵗⁱᵉˢ Service will be an Argument for a larger Number of Arms to be given. I make no doubt but you will, as you have opportunity represent the Colony in a favourable Light at Home, & Shew that Such Spirit of Loyalty & Zeal for his Majesties Service, & the Defence of his just Rights & Dominions in these parts prevails, so universally in this Colony, that we have gone beyond all Proportion, when compared with our Rich & Populous Neighbours; We are by these Services, greatly involved in Debt, our People drawn from their Labour to the Prejudice of the whole Community, & unless we have some relief, our Inhabitants must be greatly distressed. I persuade my Self, that these Matters, being properly represented to Persons of

Influence, will be of Excellent Service to pre-
=pare the way for a Reimbursment of these
Expences arisen in his Majesties Service, for which
the Colony in proper time, may Petition as to
the Proceedings in the other parts of America,
I must refer to Accounts of those more imme-
=diately concerned, which are doubtless published,
or will be with you before this comes to Hand.

I am Sr. with much respect

Yr. Hble & most Obed.t Servt.

Tho. Fitch.

P.S. Some Independt. Companies of Volunteers at their own private Ex-
=pence, are gone into ye Service agt. the French at Crown Point

[page] Endorsed Copy Ltr from Govr. Fitch of / Conne-
=cticut To / Rd. Partridge Agent / for ye Colony
of Connecticut in / New England / in Mr. Partridge's
Letter / of Novr. 18th. 1755

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C.O. 5 ; 16

[p. 499]

Boston 23d. September 1755.

Sir,

I have lately received by Express from Major General Johnson who commands the Troops on the Crown Point Expedition, an Account of their being attack'd on the 8th Instant by the French & their Indians near the Lake St. Sacra: =ment, or as it is now called Lake George. In this Action we have suffered the Loss of some brave Officers & a considerable Number of Men, but the Enemy were repulsed with a much greater Loss, and Baron de Dieskau the Com: =manding Officer made Prisoner.

The Minutes of the Council of War which Mr. Johnson refers to in his Letter were omitted being sent, or they had been trans: =mitted herewith.

I have also received a second Letter from Mr: Johnson, which principally relating to some Regulations of the Army, I thought it needless to trouble you with a Copy of it: all that may be necessary to observe is an Explanation of a Paragraph in the first Letter respecting the Numbers of the Forces under the Command of [p. 500]
Baron de Dieskau: He having since learn'd that 3191 Men was the whole Number, which the Baron

had, Indians and Canadians included, the Number of Regulars being only Seven hundred.

Most of the several Governments engaged in this Expedition are sending large Reinforcements to the Army, some of which have already joined us since the Action.

I am with great Respect.

Sir,

Your most obedient &
most humble Servant.

[autograph] [S Phips

The Right Honble Sir Thomas Robinson

[postscript] Endorsed Boston Sept.r 23.d 1755. / Presid.t Phips /
R. Nov.r 20.th

REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
C. V. S. 76

[p 505]

Camp at Lake George Sept. 9th 1755

To the Governours of the Several Colonies who raised the Troops on the present Expedition.

Gentlemen

Sunday Evening the 7th Instant I received Intelligence from some Indian Scouts I had sent out, that they had discovered three large Roads about the South Bay, & were confident a very considerable number of the Enemy were marched or on their March towards our Encampment at the Carrying place where were posted about 250 of the New Hampshire Troops & five Companies of the New York Regiment. I got one Adams a Waggoner who voluntarily & bravely consented to Ride Express with my orders to Coll° Blanchard of the New Hampshire Regiment commanding Officer there. I acquainted him with my Intelligence, & directed him to withdraw all the Troops there, within the Works thrown up. about half an hour or near an hour after this I got two Indians & two Soldiers to go on foot with another Letter to the same purpose.

About 12 a Clock that Night the Indians and Soldiers returned with a Waggoner who had stole from the Camp, with about eight others, their Waggoners & Teams without orders. This

Waggoner says they heard & saw the Enemy
about four Miles from this Side the Carrying
place. they heard a Gun fire & a Man call
upon Heaven for Mercy which he judged to be
Adams,— The next Morning I called a Counsil
of War who gave it as their Opinion tho which
the Indians were extreamly urgent that a 1000
Men should be detached & a number of their
People would go with them, in order to catch
the Enemy in their Retreat from the other
Camp either as Victors or defeated in their de-
sign. The 1000 Men were detached under the
Command of Coll° Williams of one of the Boston
Regiments, with upwards of 200 Indians. They
[illegible] Marched between 8 and 9 oblock. in about an
hour and a half afterwards we heard a heavy
firing and all the marks of a warm Engage-
-ment which we judged was about 3 or 4 Miles
from us, we beat to Arms, and got our Men
all in readiness. the fire approached nearer
upon which I judged our People were retreat-
-ing & detached Lieut Coll° Pole with about 300
Men to cover their Retreat. About twelve o clock
some of our Men in the Rear, & some In-
-dians of the said Party came running into
Camp & acquainted us that our Men were

treating, that the Enemy were too strong for them. The whole party that escaped returned to us in large Bodies.

As we had thrown up a Breast-work of Trees round our Encampment and planted some Field peices to defend the same we immediately hawled some heavy Cannon up there to strengthen our Front, took possession of some Eminences on our left Flank, & got one Field piece there in a very advantageous Situation. The Breast-work was manned throughout by our People and the best disposition made through our whole Encampment which time & Circumstances would permit. About half an hour after eleven the Enemy appeared in sight, & marched along the Road in very regular order directly upon our Center: They made a small halt about 150 Yards from our Breast work, when the Regular Troops (whom we judged to be such by their bright & fixt Bayonets) made the grand & center Attack, the Canadians & Indians squatted & dispersed on our Flanks. The Enemy's Fire we received first from their Regulars in Platoons but it did no great Execution, being at too great a distance & our Men defended by the Breast work. Our Artillery then began to play

on them & was served under the direction of Capt Eyre during the whole Engagement in a manner very advantageous to his Character, & those concerned in the Management of it. The Engagement now became general on both Sides. The
p 505 French Regulars kept / their Ground & order for some time with great Resolution & good Conduct, but the warm & constant fire from our Artillery & Troops put them into disorder, their Fire became more scatter'd & unequal & the Enemy's fire on our left grew very faint. They moved them to the Right of our Encampment & attack'd Coll° Ruggles, Coll° Williams & Coll° Titcomb Regiments where they maintained a very warm fire for near an Hour, still keeping up their fire in the other parts of our Line, tho' not very strong: the three Regiments on the Right supported the attack very resolutely & kept a constant & strong fire upon the Enemy, this Attack failing & the Artillery still playing along the Line, we found their fire very (20) with considerable Intervals, this was about four o clock, when our Men and the Indians jumped over the Breast-work pursued the Enemy, slaughtered Numbers, & took several Prisoners, amongst whom was the Baron de Dieskau. The French General of all the

Regular Forces lately arrived from Europe; who was brought to my tent just as a Wound I had received was dressed. The whole Engage-ment & pursuit ended about 7 o'clock.

I dont know whether I can get the re-turns of the Slain & wounded on our Side to transmit herewith but more of that by & by.

The greatest loss we have sustained was in the party commanded by Coll° Williams, in the Morning, who was attack'd, & the Men gave way, before Coll° Whiting who brought up the Rear could come to his Assistance; the Ene-my who were more numerous endeavour'd to surround them; upon which the Officers found they had no way to save the Troops, but by retreating, which they did as fast as they could. In this Engagement we suffer'd our greatest loss, Coll° Williams, Major Ashley, Capt Ingersal, & Capt Nicker, of the same Regiment, Capt Ferral Brother in Law to the General who commanded a party of Indians, Capt Stoddert, Capt Mc Ginnes, Capt Stevens, all Indian Officers, & the Indians say near 40 of their People who fought like Lions were all Slain: Old Hendrick the great Mohawk Sachem we fear is killed. We have abundant Reason to think we killed a great number of

the Enemy; amongst whom is Monsieur St. Pierre who commanded all the Indians; the exact numb=er, on either Side I cannot obtain for the I sent a party to bury our Dead this Afternoon it being a running Scatter'd Engagement we can neither find all our dead nor give an exact Account. As fast as these Troops joined us, they formed with the rest in the Main Battle of the day; so that the killed + Wounded in both Engagements Officers excepted must stand upon one Return.

About 8 oclock last Night a party of 120 of the New Hampshire Regiment + 90 of the New York Regiment, who were detached to our Assistance under the Command of Capt Mc Gimmes, from the Camp at the Carrying place to reinf=orce us were attack'd by a Party of Indians + Canadians at the place where Coll°. Williams was attacked in the morning. their Engagement began between 4 + 5 oclock; this Party who our People say were between 3 + 400 had fled from the Engagement here + gone to scalp our People kill'd in the Morning. Our brave Men fought them for near two hours and made a consider=able Slaughter amongst them: Of this brave party 2 were kill'd, + 11 Wounded + 5 missing. Capt

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Mr Lyons who behav'd with the utmost calmness + resolution was brought on a Horse here. + I fear his Wounds will prove mortal. Ensign Falsham of the New Hampshire Regiment wounded thro' the Shoulder.

I have this Morning call'd a Council of War a Copy of the Minutes of which I send you herewith.

Monsieur Le Baron Dieskau the French General is badly wounded in the Leg + thro' both his Hips. + the Surgeon very much fears his Life. He is an elderly Gentleman, an ex=perienced Officer, + a Man of high considera=tion in France. From his Papers I find he brought under his Command to Canada in the Men of War lately arrived at Quebec 3171 Regu=lar Troops who were partly in Garrison at Crown Point, + incamped at Ticonderoga + other advantageous Passes between this and Crown Point. He tells me he had with him Yesterday Morn=ing 200 Grenadiers, 800 Canadians + 700 Indians of different Nations His Aid de Camp says they (being seperately asked) their whole Force was about 2000. Several of the Prisoners say about 2300. The Baron says his Major General was kill'd, and his Aid de Camp says the greater

part of their Chief Officers also; he thinks by the Morning & Afternoon Actions they have lost near 1000 Men; but I can get no regular Accounts. Most of our People think from 5 to 600. We have about 30 Prisoners most of them badly wounded; the Indians scalped of their dead already near 70; & were employed after the Bat-tle last night, & all this afternoon in bringing in Scalps; & great numbers of French & Indians yet unscalped: They carried off Numbers of their dead & secreted them. Our Men have suffer'd so much fatigue for 3 days past & are con-stantly standing upon their Arms by day; half the whole upon Guard every night, & the rest lay down Armed & accoutred that both Officers & Men are almost wore out. The Enemy may rally & we judge they have considerable Re-inforcements near at hand; so I think it necessary we be upon our guard & be watchfull to maintain the Advantages we have gained: For these reasons I dont think it either pru-dent or safe to be sending out Parties in search of the Dead

I do not hear of any Officers kill'd at our Camp but Coll: Titcomb, & none wound-ed but my self & Major Nichols of Coll° Titcomb's

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C.O. 5 : 16

I cannot yet get certain Returns of our Dead + wounded; but from the best Accounts I can obtain, we have lost about 130 who are killd about 60 wounded + several missing from the Morning and Afternoons Engagements.

I think we may expect very shortly [p.500] another + more formidable Attack + that the Enemy will then come with Artillery. The late Coll° Williams had the ground cleared for build. ing a Stockaded Fort. Our Men are so harrassed + obliged to be so constantly upon watchfull duty that I think it would be both unreasonable + I fear in vain to set them at Work upon the designed Fort.

I design to order the New Hampshire Regi: ment up here to reinforce us + I hope some of the designed Reinforcements will be with us in a few days: When these fresh Troops arrive I shall immediately set about building a Fort.

The Wound which is in my thigh is very painfull; the Ball is lodged + cannot be got out by which means I am to my mortification confined to my Tent.

10th:

This Letter was begun + should have been dispatched Yesterday but we had two Alarms + neither Time nor prudence would permit it. I

hope Gentlemen you will place the incorrect-
-ness hereof to the Account of our Situation

I am

Gentlemen

most respectfully

Your most obedient Servant

Wm Johnson

Copy Attest

pp Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

(Endorsed) Endorsed on Presidt Phips's Letter of 1 Septr
23d 1755.

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Sir

When I had the honour of waiting on you, I informed you that after the defeat of General Braddock, the Governor of Pennsylvania, to induce the Assembly to enter into measures for dislodging the French from the Ohio, did propose to them, as an encouragement on mine and my Brothers part, to grant Land to the Westward of the Allegany Mountains, to such Officers, and Soldiers as should engage, and go to remove them, in such quantitys as by the message, a copy of which I have taken the liberty to inclose, will appear, without payment of any purchase money, and with an exemption from Quitrent for fifteen years, which were the Terms offered by the Governor of Virginia the last year.

As the Governor has a power to grant Land on the common conditions only, it is necessary, on our approving the Scheme that we should send him a particular power to make this Grant, and as we desire on our part to exert our Selves with the utmost zeal for his Majestys service, as well as our own security, we have resolved to make this offer more advantageous, by enlarging

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the term of exemption from fifteen to thirty years, and to extend it to three thousand men.

On considering the nature of this affair, I thought it my duty to lay it before you, in [p.510] order to know whether it is a measure acceptable to the King, and if it is, to declare our readiness to carry it into execution, in such manner as you shal judge will most conduce to his Majesty's service. I have the honour to be with great regard

Sir

Your most humble and most obedient Servant

Tho Penn

Spring Garden
November 17. 1755.

The Right Honourable Henry Fox Esquire.

[p.512] Endorsed Spring Gardens 17th Novr. | 1755. | Mr. Tho: Penn | sent to the Board of Trade | Novr 18.

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[p. 512]

Sir

As I received last night by way of Ireland a letter from Philadelphia, with some account of publick affairs, and in particular of the Indians that had deserted the french from Fort Duquesne, I thought it propper to send you that part of it, and am with great regard

Sir

your most humble and most

obedient Servant

Tho Penn

Spring Garden

Novr. 25. 1755.

The Right Honourable Henry Fox Esqr.

[p. 516]

Endorsed Novr. 25th: 1755. / Mr. Penn.

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Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia to Mr Penn dated Sept.r 25th [517]

If Mr Shirley gets a sufficiency of Provisions up to Oswego, of which he writes on the 9th Instant, he has not more than for eight Days, he will attempt Fort Frontenac first, & afterwards Niagara.

Extract of a Letter from Philadelphia to Mr Penn of the 29th of Sept.r

All Accounts from Lake George are more and more favourable, and as General Johnson is now joined by an addition of two thousand Men from New England, I make no doubt but he will proceed against Crown Point, and I think with Success, tho he must fight his way inch by inch from Tionderago, on the North West side of Lake George, to Fort Frederick, that way being secured with Trenches & Breast Works, at small distances from one another. nothing has for this week past been heard of General Shirley. he has not above twelve hundred effective Men with him, and no account is yet sent that the Provisions are arrived. Desertions & the Flux has reduced the number of his Men.

Mr Shirley in one of his Letters confirms

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the account of the Indians going away from Fort Duquesne in resentment, they were of the Ostawawocs, are returned home, have received Messages from Mr. Shirley, and he thinks they will either be neutral, or for him.

Endorsed Advices / in Mr Penn's of Novr / 25th 1755

C.O. 5 : 16

Boston 30 August 1755 [5 sent]

Sir

The Ships which carry Governor Shirley's Dispatches to the Ministry lying windbound in Nantasket Road gives me an oportunity of forwarding a Letter I last night receiv'd by Express from Major General Johnson together with the opinion & result of a Council of War consisting of the principal Officers in the Army under his command.

The General Assembly of this Province having made Provision for reinforcing the Army with Eight hundred men I am now forwarding them with all possible dispatch in Companies as they are fill'd, some of which are already marched: but it appears very doubtful whether after all the Army will be strong enough to make a Conquest of Crown Point this Season or not.

I am with very great respect

Sir

Your most obedient

and most humble Servt.

[autograph] [S Phips]

The Right hon.le Sr. Thos. Robinson. [5 508]

Endorsed Boston Augt. 30th. 1755 / President Phips / R. Octr. 3d.

[p 251]

Camp at the great Carrying Place
24th. of August 1755.

Sir,

Herewith I inclose your Honour the Minutes of a Counsil of War which I called, and at which were present all the Field Of-=ficers in Camp. I refer you thereto for Particulars.

That we have many natural Obstacles to expect that the French may of themselves out-number us. That they will take Post and Fortify themselves in some advantageous Place on this Side of Crown Point, probably at Tjonderoga. that they will greatly out-num-=ber us in Indians, and that by the Bagna-=wagas engaging in their Favour, our Indians will in general be less willing to take part with us, as they are very many of them related to the Bagnawagas, and have Brothers, Sisters, Brothers &c. among them, and that some of our Indians will upon that account actually decline engaging; I say that I incline to these Opinions and therefore do agree with the Counsil of War in thinking. That all present circumstances collected, very strong & speedy Reinforcements are necessary to obtain the Ac-=quisition of Crown Point.

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The Road is now making from this Place to Lake St. Sacrament where I propose to build Magazines, and to raise a defensible Fortification, either as a safe Retreat, in case we should find the Enemy too strong for our Force, and be obliged to quit our Ground, or upon well grounded Intelligence find it the most prudent Measure to halt there, till we receive Reinforcements.

As I think the Troops under my Command both Officers & Men seem to be animated with becoming Resolution and Courage, I hope they will approve themselves in all Respects worthy of the Confidence which their Country hath reposed in them; and I shall endeavour to the utmost of my Abilities to fulfill the Duties of that Station in which I am placed.

[p. 52] If we should not be so happy as to / gratify the Expectations of all, I hope we shall not deserve the Reproach of any. Under the Conduct of the greatest human Abilities Success is ever precarious, and determined by that Power which no Mortal hand can resist; We are engaged in a righteous and glorious Cause, and as far as Courage ought to carry Men, I hope it will carry us.

I hope the Governments in general, and yours in particular will consider the naked State of these People, who in the approaching Season will stand in need of some warm Cloaths and Bedding; surely they deserve the Consideration & Relief, and I think it would be an Affront to the Humanity and Generosity of your Colony if they needed any Arguments to stimulate them on this Occasion.

I propose to march To Morrow or next day with the first Division of about Fifteen hundred Men & some Indians and a few Field Peices for Lake St. Sacrament, and to order the Remainder of the Troops to follow as soon as possible with the heavy Artillery and Baggage.

I am, / Sir,

Your Honour's most Obedient

humble Servant,

Wm. Johnson

The Hon^ble Governour Phips,

A True copy Examined

p Tho^s Clarke Dep^ty Secry

[p. 25a]

Endorsed Copy of Major General / Johnsons Letter to Lt. Gov^r / Phips dated at the great / Carrying Place August / 24. 1755 - / in Presid^t Phips's Letter / of Aug^t 30^th 1755 / 1

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C.O.5:16

[since found to be printed in the New Hampshire Provincial Papers. VI. p 422]

[p 205]

Camp at the Great Carrying Place
22nd August 1755

P.M.

At a Council of War held by the Honour:able Major Johnson Commander in Chief of the Provincial Troops raised on the present Expedition against Crown Point.

Present

General Johnson
Major General Lyman
Coll: Timothy Ruggles
Coll: Moses Titcomb
Coll: Ephraim Williams
Coll: Elizr Goodrich
Coll: William Cockcraft
Lieut Coll: Bagly
Lieut. Coll: Pomroy
Lieut. Coll: Whiting
Lieut. Coll: Cole
Major White
Major Nicholls
Major Ashley
Major Hoare
Major Ogmisson
Major Foot
Major Fitch

Capt. Eyre Chief Engineer and Quarter Master
Capt. Peter Wraxall Secretary.

Article 1 The General directed the Secretary to read to this Council of War a Letter he
[p.256] received last Night from Coll.o Blanchard of the New Hampshire Regiment with the Letters and Papers therein referred to, and also part of a Letter which the General received at the same time from the Lieutenant Governour of New York relating to the Matters contained in Coll.o Blanchard's Dispatches: And desired the Opinion of this Council of War, what they judged necessary to be done in Consequence of the Intelligence and Matters contained in the aforesaid Papers.

Article 2. The General then proposed for the Advice of this Council of War, which Way towards Crown Point from this Place they would advise a Road should be cut for the March and Embarkation of the Army, and whether that Road should be immediately set about. And that he had directed Capt. Payson, Lieut. Butler and some Indians to attend in order to assist with their Information the Deliberations of the Council of War on this Important Question.

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Article 3. The General laid before this Council of War the last Returns made him of the State of this Army and desired they would take the same into their serious Consideration together with the Informations of some of the Indians present who arrived here last night from Canada and Brown Point, as also the Sentiments of all of them now present, relative to forming a Judgment for future Proceedings and Measures necessary to be taken hereon.

Upon the 1st Article

It is the unanimous Opinion of this Council of War that the New Hampshire Regiment should be retained in this Service, and that they be furnished with Provisions by the Commissaries of the several Governments concerned in this Expedition.

[p 207]

/In Answer to the Second Article it is the unanimous Opinion of this Council of War, that the Road to Lake St. Sacrament appears to them the most eligible and that it be immediately set about. Upon which the General put the Question what Number of Troops the Council thought safe and sufficient to carry on that Work and build a Place of Arms

and Magazines.

Voted in the Affirmative Two Thousand Men And half the Artillery and a suitable Quantity of Artillery Stores.

The Council of War at their own Motion was adjourned to 9 a Clock to Morrow Morning.

Saturday between 9 and 10 a Clock A.M.

The Council of War met according to the Adjournment of Yesterday Evening, and having taken into their serious Consideration the present State of this Army as laid before them by the General in the last Returns made to him the 17th 18 and 19 Instant by which they find the whole Amount of the Men fit for Duty in=cluding Sergeants, Corporals and Drums were at that time 2932. Since which the Number of the Sick are considerably increased and 16 Desert=ers from one Regiment; so that when the New Hampshire Regiment shall join the Army, they apprehend the whole Number of Men fit for Duty may be estimated between 31 and 3200—

The Council also find by the Answers of the Coghnawages Indians to General Johnsons Embassy sent by the 4 Mohawk Indians who arrived here from Canada and Crown Point the 21 Instant; and the said Coghnawagas Speech to

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C.O.5:16

those Mohawkes, which the General laid before
this Council of War – That the Coghnawagaes [p 250]
will joyn with their whole Force the French
against us; that from the Account General John-
=son gives of his Conversation with the said 4
Indians, it appears that the French are all in
Motion in Canada towards Crown Point. that the
Road from Montreal to St. Johns is constantly
crowded with Carriages passing to and fro with
Provisions and Stores to be dispatched by the
Brigantine and one smaller Vessel up Lake
Champlain to Crown Point, which Vessels are
constantly employ'd therein. That the Enemy are
flinging up new Works at Crown Point and
every Body there busily employ'd; The said
Indians further inform, that there appeared to
them a great Plenty of Provisions. that three
Men of War from Europe had arrived at
Quebec with Provisions, Arms, Cloathing and 6000
Troops which the French said were designed for
Crown Point. that the Governour of Canada was
calling in all the Indians settled round that
Country, who these Indians do not doubt will
readily and warmly join the French and will
with the Coghnawagaes amount to a very con-
=siderable Number. – that the French Governour

at Montreal told them he impatiently waited for General Johnson and his Troops, and should be very glad to see him, that he should have ready to oppose him 8 000 Men, besides Indians- that the French have had pretty exact Intelligence of all our Motions from the marching of the first Division from Albany- that if we marched by the Way of the Wood Creek they designed to attack us at South Bay, if by the Way of Lake St Sacrament at Ticonderoga- that when these Indians pass'd by [proq] Crown Point, there / were not above 100 Men there and two Hundred more on their Way from St Johns, but that by this time, they doubt not they are greatly encreased and daily arriving, as also the Indians- that our Indians are of Opinion that the French will fortify at Ticonderoga and be much too strong for us even there- that some of the most steady and best affected Indians who came here with the General, as also these now arrived from Canada, have several Times with apparent Uneasiness assured the General and the Indian Officers that We were far short of a sufficient Number to expect any Success against the French, and have further added that they were of Opinion

we should be defeated, yet they were our Brethren and would live and die with us.

These Informations from the Indeans were confirmed and Sworn to before the Counc=il by Lieutenant Adams, Butler and Stevens.

This Council of War having taken all these Matters into their most serious consideraa=tion, and examined since last Night to the ut=most of their Abilities, the great Subject now before them, in which Examination they have made Allowances for the natural Boastings and Vapour of the French to our Indians – are unanimously of Opinion, that the Minutes of this Council of War be with all possible Dis=patch transmitted by the General to the several Governments who have raised Troops on the present Expedition, and that General Johnson do urge to the said Governments the necessity of speedy and sufficient Reinforcements, as there is great Rea=son to believe we shall be opposed by the main Strength of Canada; and that in the [p 260] mean/while the Army do proceed with all possible Dispatch and Vigour upon the present Expedition, that General Johnson do also inform the said Governments of the Necessity there will be of Cloathing and Blankets to be sent for

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The Troops who are too thin bloathed for the Approaching Season, except it be the New York Regiment who only will want additional Bedding.

Col.	P Lyman	John Pitkin	Lieut Col.
	Moses Titcomb	Nathan Whiting	
	Timothy Ruggles	Edwd Cole	
	Elizur Goodrich	Jona White	Majors
	Eph. Williams	Eben Nicholls	
	Willm Bookcraft	Rob. Dennison	
	Jona Bagly	Noah Ashley	
	Seth Pomroy	Eleazer Fitch	
		Jona Hoare	
		Will. Eyre	

N.B. Major Foot desired Leave to withdraw from the Council yesterday being taken ill.

A True Copy from the original Minutes examined by me
Peter Wraxall

A True Copy
Attest Thos blake Dpty Secry

[p262] Endorsed Copy of the Minutes / of the Council of War / in Presidt Phips's Letter / of Augt 30th 1755 / 2

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[p 521]

Duplicates -

Albany the 8th October 1755 -

Sir.

Inclosed is an Extract of General Johnsons Letter to me with the particulars of the Battle on the 8th of last Month together with a Copy of the Conference he held with the Indians after it on their leaving him to return to their Castles.

The French General the Baron Dieskeau, and his Aid de Camp Monsieur Bernier was sent from the Camp just before my Arrival here, the former very much Wounded, he is under the best care I can provide for him, and is something better. But the Surgeons are very doubtfull of perfecting his Cure, he is very desirous of being removed to New York, where I shall send him by the first Conveyance and treat him with all the re=gards due to his Rank. But I must observe neither of these Officers produce any Commissions, on being asked for them they say they are at Montreal. I must beg to know His Majestys Plea=sure how these two Officers are to be disposed of.

Major General Johnson with the Provincial Army under his Command, remain in the Camp, preparing every thing necessary for the crossing Lake George (formerly called Lake St. Sacrament) to proceed

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on their Expedition against brown point: many Reinforcements are arrived to him from the Eastern Governments, which I hope will enable him to pro=ceed so farr as the Advanced Season will permit They are building a Fort on the Lake, which with the Fort built and near compleated at the great barrying place, will secure the Frontiers of [p 512] these Provinces, against any Incursions of the Enemys Troops this Winter, and put them in the greater forwardness for the opening the Campaign next Year, if the Colonys exert a proper Spirit in Raising Men for this Service.

The number of French Regulars in Canada, are much greater than those of His Majesty in this Country: from the best Information we can get, we have reason to believe, they will Fortify and Secure the Pass of Tionderoga, for the greater Security of brown point, which may make it very difficult for Raw, and Undisciplined Troops to Force, and if this be not accomplished this Sea=son, they will doubtless make strong Additional Works against next Year. Should we be obliged to open the Campaign next Spring under these Cir=cumstances, I beg leave to submit it to your Consideration, if a greater number of Regular Forces under the Command of able and Experienced

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Generals, may not be necessary to Insure Success, and Honour to His Majesty's Arms.

If it should be thought adviseable to Augment the Number of His Majestys Forces here, I beg leave to offer it to your Consideration whether it may not be a saving to the Government, to Regiment the Four Independant Companys belonging to this Province. I have no doubt of the Practibility of doing it, could I have the honour to receive His Majestys Commands for it. [fo. 022]

/Another Reason for my Offering to you this measure is, that the two Forts mentioned above, I apprehend will be judged necessary to be kept up even in time of Peace, and will require strong Garrissons, the four Independant Companys will be very Insufficient for this Service.

I have the honour to be / Sir

Your most Obedient

and humble Servant

[Chas Hardy]

P.S. Since writeing the above I have received two Scetches of the Forts already mentioned which are herein Inclosed, and when I can get more perfect Drafts I will transmit them to you.

The Right Hon^ble Sir Thomas Robinson

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[533]

Lake George 11 Septemr. 1755. a.m.

Present

General Johnson
Major Genl. Lyman
Colo. Ruggles.
Capt. Eyre
Capt. Peter Wraxall Secretary for Indian Affairs
Indian Officers and William Printup Interpreter.
Aquiatta an Oneida Sachem, Speaker.

Brother Wariaghejage Sole Superintendant &a.

When you called us to the late general meeting at your house, you reminded us of the many Barbarities which the French had shewn to our several Nations, and told us of the Encroach-ments which the French had made upon our hunt-ing Lands to the Southward and particularly this way.

At the same time it pleased our Father the King and you our Brother to call on us to join you, and exert ourselves in revengeing the Injuries we have received and to retreive our Lands, to all which we agreed.

Brother.

After you made this Speech to us, there were none of the Confederate Nations who spoke at once and openly that they would assist you, with as many as they could spare, but the Oneida

Nation, and I call now upon the other Nations present whither this is not the truth.

Brother

Now since you desired us to assist you here, we came, and notwithstanding the proud [p 534] Speeches of our Enemys we have lifted up our hands and destroy'd them,

Brother

You hung your Warr Kettle over at the late Meeting with seven heads in it, and now Brother it seems that you had such a great Fire under it, that it made the Water boil over and des: troyed our Enemies, and how will it be when we come to overset the whole Kettle upon them.

Brother

Now we have thus farr complied with your call upon us, we are all of us now determined to re: turn to our several homes, and Familys for the pres: ent and so we bid you farewell.

Thereupon General Johnson retired to his Tent with the following Officers and agreed upon a reply as follows.

Major Genl. Lyman
Col: Ruggles
first Col: Whiting
Major Fitch
Capt. Lyre
And the Secretary

Brethren.

I am sorry for the loss you have sustain'd on your side, as well as for that on our own.

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Nation, and I call now upon the other Nations present whither this is not the truth.

Brother

Now since you desired us to assist you here, we came, and notwithstanding the proud
[p 534] Speeches of our Enemys we have lifted up our hands and destroy'd them,

Brother

You hung your War Kettle over at the late Meeting with seven heads in it, and now Brother it seems that you had such a great Fire under it, that it made the Water boil over and des: troyed our Enemies, and how will it be when we come to overset the whole Kettle upon them.

Brother

Now we have thus far complied with your call upon us, we are all of us now determined to re: turn to our several homes and Familys for the pres: ent and so we bid you farewell.

Thereupon General Johnson retired to his Tent with the following Officers and agreed upon a reply as follows.

Major Genl. Lyman
Col: Ruggles
1st Col: Whiting
Major Fitch
Capt. Lyre
And the Secretary

Brethren.

I am sorry for the loss you have sustain'd on your side, as well as for that on our own.

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We have great reason to thank God, for the Success we have met with, and our losses ought rather to warm our hearts to prosecute the present undertaking than produce any coolness. this both prudence call on us to do.

Gave 2 peices Strouds to cover the Dead.

Brethren

You have repeated some of the things which passed at our late meeting, I remember the whole very well, and the Ingagements entered into on both sides, and am sorry to see they are not fulfilled on yours. [p.535]

Brethren.

We are not yet got half way: We have had in one Day three Engagements with the Enemy, We drove them away and made great Slaughter among them. What ever are your reasons for leaveing us in this Situation. I must think, and all the World will be I believe of the same opinion, that it is not agreeable to your promises, nor advantageous to your Characters, however I shall lay no Restraints upon you. We are determined to pursue our first design, to look our Enemies in the Face, and with Gods blessing to secure the safety of our Country and endeavour to obtain that honour which you by

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thus Abandoning of us will have no share in.

I expect and desire by this Belt that you fullfill your Engagements. Gave a Belt.

Before General Johnson made the above reply, the Sachems came into his Tent, and returned him the Belt of Wampum he had given to go with the second Embassy to the Coghnawagas and said.

Brother. Here is your Belt of Wampum. The Coghnawagaes have joined the French and acted as Enemys. We desire they may never more be permitted to Trade either at Albany or Oswego.

Two Chief Sachems of the Mohawks also told the General not to be displeased that the Indians were returning home it was unavoidable in their Circumstances, but he should see them soon again and fresh People with them.

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[p. 55b.]

12th September 1755 –

Present

General Johnson
Peter Wraxall Secretary for Indian Affairs
William Printup Interpreter
Sachems of the Lower Mohawk castle and Oneidas

Brother.

We heard your reply of Yesterday, And we assure you our going home is not owing to any coldness of Heart or the least dread of our Enemies, it is our constant custom after an Engagement in which we have any loss. to return home for a little while and chear our People, and then return with fresh Vigor and attack our Enemys. And you may be assured Brother this is our present intention.

We must entreat of you and earnestly beg that the boghnawages may never be again permitted to come and trade at Albany or Oswego, or looked upon as our Friends, they have behaved treacherously, and we are determined no longer to look on them as our Brethren. Our Indignation does and will daily encrease against them. We hope you may not make up a sudden Peace with the French as was done last Warr, and leave us in the lurch and disappointed

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of venting our Resentments upon our Enemys.

We hope you will stand to your Engagements, and persevere in your designs

I gave a large Belt

A true Copy from the Original Minutes

Peter Wraxall Secretary for Indian Affairs

[p 536] Enclosed In Sr Wm. Hardys Letter of 1 Octr. 8th 1755.

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[p 517]

Duplicate

Extract of a Letter to His Excellency Sir Charles Hardy from General Johnson dated from Lake George the 16th Sept.r 1755_

There is I find some little difference with regard to the Mornings Engagement between the Account then and since given,

The late Col.o Williams who March'd off with the first division of 500, did halt about a quarter of a Mile from where the Enemy Attack'd and waited for the other Division un=der Lieut. Colonel Whiting, during this halt, the Enemy planted themselves in Ambuscade, our party then March'd forward the Indians leading the Van, one of the Enemys Muskets by Accident went off which Allarm'd our People, and dis=cover'd the Enemy, who immediately began their Fire upon our Indians who finding the Enemy on all sides, retreated to Col.o Williams who was at some small distance, the engagement then be=gan on both sides, the Indians and the Van of our People, sustained the warmest fire, and amongst them was the greatest Slaughter, whilst the rest of our Troops were Marching up to support them, the Enemy who were much Su=perior in Number began to spread themselves in

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order to surround us, our Officers then thought it prudent to retreat, towards the Camp, and our Men fled that way, the sustaining party I had dispatched found things in this posture and so the flight became general. The Enemy did not pursue vigorously or our Slaughter would have been greater, and perhaps our Panick fa-tall. This gave us time to recover, and make Dispositions to receive the approaching Enemy.

The Baron de Dieskau tells me, his plan was first to have made an Attack on our Troops at the great Carrying Place, but the Indians flatly refused to join in it, be-cause of the Fortifications there, and that they apprehended it was defended by Cannon that if [p 558] he would March and attack us here, they were ready and willing to join, with this he comply'd, very happy for us, for he would have found our Troops seperately Encamped out of the Works and no Cannon there, and his Victory would probably have been a very cheap one, and made way for another here. In my aforesaid Letter I mentioned that in the Gallant Action of the Evening, the Enemy were between 3 & 400 Canadians and Indians, some Prisoners who are since taken, and are down at the Fort, own that they

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were between 6 & 700; many of our Men fired all their Ammunition away, picked up the Enemys during the Action, and generously returned it them.

These Prisoners, one of whom is a Canadian Captain, says, most of their chief Officers was either kil'd or wounded in the several Actions of the Way, the Prisoners in general give it as their opinion that their whole loss must have been betwixt 6 & 700, but by the Bodys found, the Slaughter does not appear to have been so large, many doubtless they carried off hid them, or buried, the general opinion among the most Judicious here is, that the Enemys loss is between 3 & 400, and many more wounded. their precipitate flight, Arms and Baggage dropt about the Woods, are strong tokens of their great loss. I am not fond of sending out Men to disperse themselves in search of these matters, the Enemy fled various ways, and not in any compact Bodys, it might therefore be a dangerous and would probably be an unsatisfactory measure to be ransacking the Woods, besides we have more important Work before us.

The Day after the above Actions I found our Indians were determined on returning home,

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I own it surprized me but they told me, it was always their Custom after any Engagement in which they had met with a loss, and in=deed their loss has been very heavey, not only [p 554] in Numbers, but in / Personal Consequence of the Slain.

I send out constant Scouting Parties every way to watch or discover the motions of the Ene=my. Our Breast work is strengthened, and carry=ed quite round our Camp, a Picketted Fort is building here, the Ground was cleared, and poor Col° Williams was begining it when the Enemys visit put an end to his Life, and necessarily suspended the work for some days, I would have had a more respectable Fort here, upon a plan, and built under the direction of the chief Engineer. But the Council of Warr were flatly against it, and upon their telling me, the Ma=jority of the Officers and Men, were extreamly averse to any other Construction, and that if I persisted in it, it would occasion a general dissatis=faction, I gave up my own Sentiments.

Flat bottom Boats are building for our Artillery and Stores, and when the Battoes are brought up, the Carpenters shall repair and Caulk them, if a sufficient number of Waggons are

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got and dispatchid in time. I hope in less than three Weeks, to move from hence towards Crown Point.

Bpsides regular Troops and every pass fortified, all Canada from Quebec, are summonsid to oppose us, however as large Reinforcements are said to be on their way here, I hope we shall at least be able to make a good push; many if not most of our Wounded Men, will not I fear be capable to assist us. our Sick Increase and will probably continue to do so, bold Weather is at hand, and our Men very thinly clad, however I hear the Governments are sending warm Cloaths, in short dispatch is our dependance, that depends upon Waggons, and those I fear upon great uncertaintys —

[B.510]

Endorsed Lake George 16th Sept. 1755 / Extract of a Letter to Sir / Charles Hardy from / Genl. Johnson / in Sr. Chas. Hardy's Letter / of Octr. 8th 1755.

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[Copy]

Camp at Lake George 11th October 1755.

Honrd Sir,

We would humbly propose to your Honour to call a Council of War to consider of the present State of this Army & all circumstances relating thereto, and whether it is not best immediately to inform the Governments concern'd in this Expedition thereof, and desire their orders as to future proceedings, and to consider whether it is not best to dismiss a number of Invalids from the Service & am your Honours, most obedient humble Servants

P Lyman
Seth Pomroy
Elipt Dyre
Elihu Chauncey
Nathan Whiting
John Pitkin

To the Honble William Johnson
Commander in Chief of the
Army at Lake George &c

A true Copy examin'd
by me
Peter Wraxall Secry

Camp

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Camp at Lake George 11th Octo.r 1756.

P.M. At a Council of War held in General Lymans Tent

Present.

General Lyman President

All the Field Officers in camp except Lt Col Ward &

Lt Col Whitcomb absent by Sickness

Capt Eyre Engineer General &c

Capt Glazier Adjutant General &c

Peter Wraxall Secretary

General Lyman acquainted this Council of War, that Application having been made by himself & sundry Field Officers now present to General Johnson to call a Council of War upon the following Articles

1st To take into consideration the present State of this Army and the circumstances relating thereto

2 Whether it is not best immediately to inform the Governments concern'd in the Expedition thereof, and desire their Orders as to future proceedings.

3 To consider whether it is not best to dismiss a number of Invalids from the Service.

General Johnson had by reason of the [torn] present indisposition desir'd him to preside at this Council of War and to make a Report of their proceedings, whereupon General Lyman desir'd this

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Council of War to take the foregoing Articles into their Serious consideration & give their opinion on the same.

It is the opinion of this Council of War that a Member of this Council from each Province be appointed a Committee to draw up a particular State of this army and all circumstances relating thereto, and make a Report of the same to this Council of War at their next meeting, and the following Gentlemen were appointed to be that Committee

Col Bagley for Massachusetts Bay
Col Dyar for Connecticutt
Col Lockwood for New York
Major Champlin for Rhode Island,

The Council deferr'd their opinion upon the second article till the Committee had deliver'd their Report upon the first.

Upon the third Article this Council of War are of opinion that all such Soldiers as are unfit for Duty and are not likely to be of any Service to the Army this Fall may have a Furlow to return home from the Commanding Officer of each Regiment with the Generals Approbation.

The Council of War was then adjourned by the President to 6 a Clock to morrow Evening.

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12 October Sunday Evening abt 6 a Clock

Present

Major General Lyman

All the Field Officers in Camp except Lt Col Ward +

Lt Colonel Whitcomb

Major Payson added to the Council

Capt Eyre + Capt Glazier

Peter Wraxall Secretary

The Committee delivered in their Report

[459] of the particular State of this Army, and all circumstances relating thereto, which was read to the Council and is as follows.

Whereas the Council of War have ap=pointed + Chosen us William Corbcraft, Elipt Dyre, Jonathan Bagley and Christopher Champlin as a Committee to take into consideration the present State of this Army, and all circumstances relating thereto, and make Report thereof to the said Council. We in Consequence thereof make the following Report

We find that our Army at present en=camp'd near Lake George including the Rein=forcements already arriv'd consists of abt 3600 men, the Garrison now at Fort Edward of 500 men + the Recruits at Albany, and on their march hither of about 2500 men the whole amounting to 6600 whereof by the several Returns

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from the Regiments here, & at Fort Edward, it appears that about 700 are unfit for Duty. besides many others who must soon inevitably be render'd incapable of Duty thro want of proper Lodging, Bedding Watch coats, & other necessaries against the Inclemency of the Weather, to which they are continually expos'd in Camp Duty, in Building the Fort, mending the Roads, advanced and Scouting parties, in all which different Services they cannot have the use of Fire.

As to the Grand & important point of Provisions it is Notorious from Returns of the several Commissaries from time to time given in, the Army in general has never at any time (since their Encampment at Lake George) been possessed of Five Weeks Provisions Advance (saving the article of Meal) notwithstanding the utmost Efforts us'd by his Excellency Governor Hardy at Albany in Impressing Waggons & furnishing the Convoys, and that too when the Weather was favourable & the Roads Waggons & Horses all in good order, much less can we now expect to have such a supply of Provisions when our Troops are considerably Augmented the Inclemency

[p 572]

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of the Weather daily increasing & the Roads in many places almost impassable, numbers of Waggons broke and distroy'd, many Horses kill'd & worn out in the Service, and from the present season of the year heavy rains may be daily expected, When the three Branches of the Mohawkes River and Hudsons River at Saraghtoga will be rendered impassable, but admitting all our former Advantages were still to continue yet before it could be possible to get up from Albany Provisions for the present consumption, and also a sufficiency for the army to proceed, the season would be so far advanc'd that it would be morally impossible to undergo the Rigour of the weather. The above considerations are humbly submitted to the Hon^ble Members of the Council of War by their most Obedient humble Servants

Wm Lockeraft
Elph^r Wyre
Jon^a Bagley
Chris Champlin

Camp Lake George
October 12. 1755.

The aforegoing Report was unanimously Accepted by this Council of War as containing the present State of this Army and all circumstances

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relating thereto

Upon the second Article this Council of War are unanimously of Opinion that the Genral be Advised to transmit the Minutes of this Council to the several Governments concern'd, and desire their orders as to future proceedings

P Lyman

Peter Wraxall Secry

A true Copy from the Original
Examind by me
Peter Wraxall Secry

Copy examin'd
by Thos Clarke Dpy. Secry

In Presid: Phips's Letter of 1 Oct.

31st 1755

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A Journal of the New Hampshire Scout [1759]
of three Men sent from Lake George to
reconoitre Fort Frederic or Crown point fort,
the New Works & Army there.

Set forward in a Battoe from the En=
=campment the 14th Sept. at abt 95 miles dis=
=tance down the Lake landed about day light,
took the Battoe out & hid it left two Men
of Connecticutt forces there to Watch the Battoe
& Provisions till our Return.

Saw that morning sundry Indian Canoes
passing in the lower part of the Lake, went
forwards towards Crown point.

The 14th day at Evening discovered the
Wheat fields & four houses abt 2 miles Southerly
of Crown point fort. In the Night went to
the Intrenchment made from the Fort encompass=
=ing a little hill, the Trenches not finish'd, but
reaches about 30 rods from the fort, wch Intr=
=enchmt begins at the Southwest corner of the
fort & South westerly abt 2 rods wide at
the fort, and widens to abt 15 at the other
end. Went into the Trench & spent the Night
for discovery in & abt there till morning and
then retired to a mountain about a Mile West

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from the Fort where there was a clear view of all the Fort & Appurtenances, and saw an Addition to the fort from the Northwest Corner abt 25 rods wch reach'd to the Water side inclosing some buildings. many Tents set up in it.

A Windmill abt 60 rods South of the fort in wch Space many Tents were up, had a clear discovery of the Fort & Appurtenances The Soldiery were mustered & exercis'd. The whole of French & Indians we judged we cou'd see upon five [page] or six hundred. / Their People some few were at work at the Intrenchments seem'd unconcern'd hunting Pidgeons &c all round in the Woods some of which came within abt 15 rods of the Scout. We came off the Hill at night.

The 19th set homeward, travel'd to the Lake about six Miles from Ticonderoga.

20th Set up to the Lake to where we left the Battoe found that & two Men (we left) were gone, and we set homeward.

The 23d late at Night arrived at the great Camp
o this Camp

The Land is rough & Mountenous from the lower end of the Lake to Crown point the distance about 20 miles. and we apprehend impracticable to get a o passable Road there, which is the

o he means for Cannon

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general Account of the Discoveries we have made and is humbly Submitted by

Your Honours most Dutiful &
obedient Servant

Robert Rodgers

24th Sept 1755.

To the Honble Joseph Blanchard Esqr. Colonel of the New Hampshire Regiment in the Expedition against Crown point.

May it please Your Honour

The foregoing is a Report of Capt. Robert Rodgers under your direction, sent with a party to Crown point to reconoitre that post Which is humbly offered by

Your most humble Servant

Joseph Blanchard

Lake George 24th sept 1755.

To the Honble General Johnson

A true Copy from the original Examind by me Peter Wraxall secry to Genl Johnson

Copy examind

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[p.975]

A Journal of the New hampshire Scout of five Men sent from the Encampment at Lake George to Reconoitre the Encampment of the French + Indians at Ticonderoga

Sept.r 27th P.M. Set forward in a Birch Canoe part that night sundry Indian Fires (their Spies) by the side of the Lake, put a shore about 7 miles from the Carrying place. left three with the Canoe, two went forward.

Early on the 28th about ten in the Morning came in view of an Encampment at the lower end of the Lake at the Carrying place of about 1000 French + Indians we crawl'd thro.h their Guards to within abt 30 or 40 Rods of the Encampment.

There was no Fort nor Artillery there, we retir'd + went about one mile + a half further, + discover'd their Grand Encampment exept thro.h their Guards to within abt 60 rods found a fort building there, discover'd a number of Cannon mounted there, we had a convenient situation for a view, wch we kept till towards night, + by the appearance of the Tents + Troops French + Indians we judg'd likely to be about Three Thousand.

Their Situation commands the Passage at the Carrying place and (we that) the Passage down

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Champlain from Wood Creek & Crown point.

Next day the 29th return'd to our Canoe, & found a Large Indian Canoe had pass'd up the Lake with one French man & nine Indians who on their Return we waylaid on a point [p 576] of the Lake / They came in Reach of our small arms, at whom we fir'd about 40 Guns, disenabled or kill'd six of them, and chas'd the remaining four but at their Shreeks three In= =dian Canoes came to their Relief which prevented our bringing them in.

Returned to our Camp that night, which is the general Information we are able to give, & is humbly Submitted by

Your Honours

Most Obedient humble Servant

Robert Rodgers

Sept: 29. 1755.

To The Honble Joseph Blanchard Esqr Colonel of the New Hampshire Regimt in the Expedition against Crown Point.

May it please your Honour.

The foregoing is a Report of Capt Robert Rodgers under your direction sent with a Party

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to Teyondaroga to reconoitre that part, which is
humbly offerd by

Your most Humble Servant

Joseph Blanchard

Lake George 29th Sept 1755.

To the Honble General Johnson.

A true Copy from the Original
Examin'd by me
Peter Wraxall secry to
Genl Johnson.

Copy examind
pr Thos Clarke Dpty Secry

Inclosed in Governor Phips's Letter of Oct. 1

31st 1755

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Boston October 31st 1755. [577]

Sir,

I had the Honour to receive your several letters of 26th July & 28th August, and shall in all things conform my self to the directions con=tain'd therein having already in obedience to your orders signified to me in the former is=sued a Proclamation giving notice of the danger of a Rupture with France and cautioning his Majesty's Subjects to be upon their guard against any Mischief that may be apprehended from such an Event.

And I now transmit you, Sir, the last Accounts I have recievd from the Army at Lake George, which are contain'd in the Minutes and Result of a Council of War dated the 12th in=stant; and in the Report of Captn Rodgers of the New Hampshire Regiment, who was sent out upon the Discovery; which papers will con=vey the best Intelligence I can send with Re=gard to the situation and circumstances of the Provincial Forces engagd in the Expedition to Crown Point; and likewise of the Enemy Posted there, and at the important pass at Ticonderoga about fifteen Miles of this side.

It is a very unhappy circumstance that

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[p570] notwithstanding / the ample Provision made by the several Governments to furnish every thing neces= =sary for the support and Comfort of the Troops, and notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of Sir Charles Hardy, Governour of New York, and of the several Commissaries at Albany, to for= =ward the supplies to the Camp, it has been found impracticable to get up such Quantities as were thought requisite: This Government has more than three weeks past sent a Gentleman of great influence in the Western parts of this province to procure Horses and Carriages time to supply the deficiency of them at Albany, and the parts adjacent, and have again within these five days appointed three other Gentlemen to Repair to Albany to provide & forward every thing needfull, in hopes that the Army may still proceed at this advanc'd Season; and it is judg'd that they are by this time reinforc'd with a thousand or fifteen hundred men since the Result of the Council of War.

I have the Honour to be with the greatest Respect

Sir, / Your most Obedient and / most humble Servant

Spencer Phips

Rt Honble Sir Thomas Robinson, Knt of the Bath and one of his Majtys principal Secretaries of State

[p560] Endorsed. Boston Octr 31st 1755 / President Phips / Rd Decr 22d.

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[p 565]

Sir

I had the honour to Write you on the 28th of Augst and then sent you an Account of the defeat of the troops under Genl: Brad:=dock, which was Containd in a Letter from Cap:=tain Orme his Aide de Camp, who will have the honour to deliver you this, and can let you more particularly into the Causes of that misfortune than was possible to be done by Letter. The difficulties that Genl Braddock had to struggle with, and the many disappointments he Experienced, in the Course of his short Command upon this Continent, will shew you what little dependence there is upon American Assemblys in matters of a General Con:=cern; and as Mr. Orms Situation with the Genl, gave him the greatest opportunities of knowing every thing that was done or neglected, He will be able to give very Material informations to the Kings Ministers Relating to America, and any future Opera:=tions that may be thought necessary for the Se:=curity of these Colonies, I therefore take the Liberty to Refer you to him for such Particulars as would make a Letter too tedious.

Mr. Penn will have laid before you the Accounts I sent him of the Success of his

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Majesties Arms under Coll: Johnson which was per-
=tainly a most Lucky incident as Genl: Shirley and
the forces with him in all Probability must have
submitted to the french if Monsieur Dieskau, had
provd Successfull: You will give me leave to
Observe that American Irregulars are the best
Troops that can be employed against Indians +
in the Woods but they are not to be depended
on for any length of time, or in the attack
of any fortress but seem absolutely necessary to
Accompany Regular troops in a Country circumstanc-
=ed as this is.

I have the Honour to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt: Humble

Servt

Robt: H. Morris

Philada: Septr: 24. 1755

Sr Thos Robinson:

[p.562] Endorsed. Pensylvania Septr: 24th: 1755./ Dpy. Govr:
Morris / Rd Decr: 22d.

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[p.511]

Annapolis. October the 8th 1755.

Right Honourable

The Receipt of Your Letter dated the 19th of June I do myself the honour to acknowledge + hope You will be persuaded that the Orders therein given as well as all other Commands that You may be pleased to signify will be deligently obeyed. In this part of His Majesty's Dominions Things have remained in the Situation they were in when I took the Liberty to address myself to You in August: this Morning I was informed that a Party of Indians have been seen on this Side Fort Cumberland, but as I have ordered a Party of Men in Pursuit of them I hope they will not be able to do much Mis=chief. I learn that Colonel Dunbar is imbark=ing the Troops under his Command at Amboy in New Jersies in order to convey them to Al=bany where General Shirley designs they shall take up their Winter Quarters.

With the greatest Respect
I am Right Honourable Sir
Your most devoted humble Servant
[autograph] [Hor°. Sharpe]

Sr. Thos. Robinson

[p.512]

Endorsed Maryland Octr. 8th. 1755 / Depy Govr. Sharpe / Rd Decr. 18th.

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[p585]

Sir –

I am Sorry it has not been in my Power, to afford that Assistance to his Majestys Measures upon this Continent, that might reasonably have been expected from the flourishing Province I have the Honour to preside over, but such has been, and Still is the Obstinate temper of the Assembly. That all my endeavours to prevail on them to grant Supplys to the Crown, or provide for the safety and defence of the Province have had no other Effect, then to draw from them Messages tending to alienate the affections of the People from his Majestys Government, & fill'd with the grossest Calumny and most insolent Abuse of the Proprietors and my Self. In which they have gone such lengths, that nothing but his Majestys Commands, or the Security of the Province will induce me to have any further Communication with them; as I am satisfied upon repeated Tryalls that they have not the least intention to promote the publick Service, but upon terms inconsistent with their own Dependance.

I cannot indeed accuse them of disaffection to the Royal Family now upon the Throne, but

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they are certainly disaffected to Government itself, and Consequently to his Majestys Office and Au=
=thority tho' not to his Person or Family — I have in my several Letters, laid before you the par=
=ticular parts of the Assemblys behaviour, and the difficultys I have met with in the Execution of the Kings Commands, and am now to inform you that on the 16th Instant, a Party of French and Indians fell upon some of the remote Settle=
=ments of this Province, which they distroy'd, put thirteen of the Inhabitants to death, and Carry'd off Twelve Prisoners, and as they met with no resistance, and are no Strangers to the defence=
=less State of this Province, it is to be fear'd this is only the beginning of the Ravages they intend, and which it will be impossible for me to prevent, as I have neither Men, Money, Arms, [p.526] nor Amunition at my disposall; I am without a Militia, and have an Assembly that are, or pretend to be, Principled against defending them=
=selves or their Country, and what makes it the more likely that the French will take Advan=
=tage of Our defenceless State, and Say wast this Country is, that without the Aid of this Pro=
=vince, it will be very difficult if not impra=
=ticable to carry on another Expedition against

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the Forts they have built upon the Ohio.

I think it my duty to give you the Earliest Intelligence of these Matters and am

Sr.

Your most Obed.t
Humble Servt
Robt. H. Morris

Pennsylvania Octo.r 27th 1755

[p 549]

Pennsylvania Oct.r 27th 1755 / Dep.y
Gov.r Morris / R. Dec.r 19th

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Pensilvania Octo[r] 28[th] 1755. [456]

Sir

I had the honor to write you two days ago, that the Indians had attacked and distroyd some of the Frontier Settlements of this Province, And I have this day received Intelli=gence that a great number of French and In=dians were on this side the Alleghany Moun=tains, moving towards this Province; and that a party of them had since passd the River Sus=quehannah, and distroyd some Settlements about one hundred miles from Philadelphia. the particu=lars of which I have sent to Mr Penn by this Conveyance

Upon this Intelligence I have summoned the Assembly to meet me on the third of Nov=ember, and hope the danger the people are in, will induce them to do some thing for their safety and defence. Should these French and In=dians be only scalping partys, they will distroy a few familys and retire, But if there should be any number of regular troops with the In=dians, they will make a very great Progress [457] in a Country circumstanced as this is, without a Militia or any thing necessary for its defence.

I have only to Assure you that I shall

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do every thing in my Power to oppose the Enemy and to Protect the people committed to my charge, and shall inform you from time to time of what is done and Am Sir

Your Most Obed[t]

Humble Serv[t]

Robt H. Morris

S[r] Thos Robinson

[post] Endorsed Pensylvania 28[th] Oct[r] /1755/ Lt Gov[r] Morris / Rx 29[th] X[ber]

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